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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the chances of the Legislature passing a budget before the fiscal year ends on Oct. 1?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Mga tugon sa ilang katanungan tungkol sa CNMI Transitional Worker Classification.

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President Obama challenges Congress to pass a $450 billion plan to jolt the economy.

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Guilty

John Galliano is found guilty of drunken anti-Semitic ravings that cost him his job at Christian Dior.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Another $60M hotel investment fizzles

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Island Ventures LLC has scrapped its plan to build a new $60 million five-star hotel on public land in San Roque, citing corporate restructuring and economic uncertainties.

"They pulled out of the project," Department of Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said in an interview yesterday, referring to Islands Ventures' notification letter to DPL last week.

Herman P. Sablan, representative of Island Ventures in the CNMI, confirmed the investment pullout yesterday, because of corporate restructuring and the turmoil in the stock market.

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AP-GfK poll: Japanese support for US bases grows

By MALCOLM FOSTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese have become more welcoming to the U.S. military presence in their country over the past six years as fears spread that neighboring China and North Korea are threats to peace, an Associated Press-GfK poll has found.

The survey released Monday on Japanese views of other countries, security and the imperial family also showed that while about half of Japanese are positive about the U.S. and Germany, they are overwhelmingly negative or neutral toward immediate Asian neighbors Chi-

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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, first row, fourth from right, speaks to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection official as they prepare for a group photo after Inos signed Thursday a proclamation declaring September 2011 "National Preparedness Month" on Capital Hill. Also in photo are officials and representatives of different CNMI and federal agencies involved in emergency response.

Fitial 'not happy' with signing of Fund bill

» Measure to repeal law planned

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday he's "not happy" that Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, when he was acting governor on Monday, signed a contentious bill affecting the NMI Retirement Fund despite what he said was a previous agreement between him and Inos not to sign the measure.

Fitial said he and Inos talked about the derivative bill before he left for New Caledonia.

"Well, I was not happy because that's not what we agreed to do," Fitial said in an interview at the roof topping off ceremony for the Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon.

The governor said it's up to the Legisla-

See FITIAL on Page 4

Fund trustee quits, board lawyers delay resignation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A trustees of the NMI Retirement Fund has quit while the agency's lawyers have delayed their resignation at the request of board chair Sixto Igisomar.

Francisco Rosario, who was just recently confirmed as Fund trustee, recently tendered his resignation to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. His resignation took effect yesterday.

Igisomar announced Rosario's resignation during an emergency meeting on Thursday,

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Sandy Beach Homes to open model home, leasing office. PAGE 2

Tinian mayor cries foul over 'inequity' in budget bill. PAGE 5

Local

Sandy Beach Homes to open model home, leasing office

The Sandy Beach Homes residential rental complex under construction in Chalan Kanoa will host an open house today, Sept. 10, to give interested applicants a look at a model home.

The six-story, 60-unit project is scheduled for completion in December 2011 and will be open for occupancy in January 2012 to applicants who meet income and other eligibility requirements.

"Construction continues to proceed at a smooth pace, and our open house on Saturday will be an opportunity for potential tenants to stop by and explore the features of the homes first-hand," said Sandy Beach Homes managing member Bob Jones. "We will be ready on Monday to open our leasing office and begin accepting applications from qualified tenants."

The open house will be held today from 8am to 5pm. The leasing office will be operated from the model home and will be open on Monday from 8am to 5:30pm. Regular office hours are from 9:30am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday and from 8am to 12pm on Saturday. Temporary parking is available in the lot just south of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel on Beach Road.

Sandy Beach Homes will be launching a website at www.sandybeachhomes.net where applications will be downloadable before Monday.

Each of the homes has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, washer/dryer, A/C, insulated double-paned windows, water purification system, and ceiling fans in every room. The refrigerator, stove, and dishwasher are Energy Star rated. Additional amenities include a balcony overlooking Saipan's western lagoon, a parking garage, typhoon shutters, and security cameras. The facility also includes backup generator and water supply. Four ADA units will also be available.

The Sandy Beach Homes complex sits in the heart of Chalan Kanoa, with several stores, banks, schools, churches and the main post office located within walking distance. The housing complex is funded under a federal housing program through Northern Marianas Housing Corp. The opportunity to stay at Sandy Beach Homes is open to all legal CNMI residents, even non-U.S. citizens, as long as income and other eligibility requirements are met. For example, the household annual income limit for two people is $28,620. Families or unrelated individuals may apply as a household.

For more information, visit the Sandy Beach Homes website or contact the leasing office beginning Monday at leasing@sandybeachhomes.net or (670) 235-7263 (SAND). ***(PR)***

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Fund considers moving cash investments to mutual funds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board has authorized administrator Richard Villagomez to investigate how mutual fund companies work as it considers options on where to move its cash investments.

During Thursday's emergency meeting, board trustee Adelina Roberto disclosed that the Fund has $100 million in cash sitting with the Fund's custodian, Bank of Hawaii. These were assets the Fund liquidated from money managers whose contracts were terminated.

The amount, according to Villagomez, is earning only about 1 percent, which is small compared to investing it in the market, which has a projected return of between 4.3 and 4.4 percent, based on the Fund's new asset allocation model.

With the cash just sitting with the custodian, Villagomez estimates the income opportunity loss for the Fund to reach $9 million a year.

The signing into law of the beneficiary derivative act this week has already resulted in two money managers terminating their contracts with the Fund. The remaining money managers and the Fund's investment adviser—Wilshire Associates—are expected to follow suit.

Villagomez told the board that the Fund must also plan for the worst-case scenario—if the custodian decides to withdraw its services with the Fund.

"We haven't heard from them [Bank of Hawaii] but the worst-case scenario is if the custodian drops us," said Villagomez, adding that exploring a mutual fund company is part of preparations for these situations.

"I would like to discuss the possibility of getting a mutual fund company so we can invest the cash and earn more than 1 percent and this was recommended by the investment consultant even before the bill became law—in case our money managers quit and we cannot contract other [replacements]," he explained.

Because mutual funds basically involve buying shares, Villagomez said that mutual funds are not subject to the beneficiary derivative law, which covers firms and companies that have contracts with the Fund.

"With mutual funds, we should be able to find strategies to allow us to completely fill the new allocation that we're transitioning to," said Villagomez.

Wilshire has already expressed its intention to end its relationship with the Fund because of the new law. However, it was asked to stay on, with the condition that the board will consider bringing the matter of the beneficiary derivative law to court.

Villagomez said that if Wilshire terminates its contract, the Fund will likely not get a replacement.

The possibility of hiring an in-house investment consultant—or within the island—is also remote because Public Law 6-17, which created the Fund, clearly outlines the minimum criteria and requirement for an investment consultant, which, among others, is that it must have advised clients with at least $200 million in market value.

"We cannot hire in-house to fulfill that role," said Villagomez.

Jorgensen is also counsel for CRA

Attorney Bruce Jorgensen yesterday notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that he is representing the Commonwealth Retirement Association.

The retirement group wants the NMI Retirement Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government to be removed from the Superior Court and transferred to the District Court.

Jorgensen also filed a notice informing the District Court of his forthcoming submissions in support of consolidating CRA board member Sapuro Rayphand's filing with the pending lawsuit filed by unnamed retirees against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other co-defendants.

Jorgensen also served as counsel for the unnamed retirees.

CRA, through Rayphand, filed in federal court on Thursday a notice of removal of the Fund's lawsuit. Rayphand did not mention in his notice that Jorgensen is their counsel.

Rayphand stated that it has been more than two years now since Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo rendered a $230-million judgment in the case yet there has been little, if any, meaningful steps toward enforcement of that judgment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NMC upgrades nursing and health teaching technology

The CNMI Area Health Education Center at the Northern Marianas College recently upgraded learning and teaching technology for the college's Nursing department with interactive manikins, which are anatomical models of the human body used for educational purposes.

These manikins made by Laerdal Medical Corporation in New York, are designed to provide realistic simulations of different individuals in order to teach important skills necessary to properly assess and appropriately administer medical care in various scenarios.

"We are extremely happy and excited to begin using these manikins to teach our students important skills they will need in the nursing profession," said NMC Nursing department chair Rosa M. Tudela. "More experience and more practice means that they will be better prepared when they enter the workforce."

The manikins, housed at the NMC Nursing department, include an adult manikin designed for teaching advanced life saving skills in emergency situations outside of a hospital setting and another adult female manikin designed to simulate a variety of hospital patients, as well as to provide clinical training in the area of women's health.

In addition to adult manikins, the department received a baby and a 6-year-old child manikin for teaching skills and techniques specific to pediatric clients.

Before the manikins could be utilized at NMC, Tudela and NMC nursing instructors Johnny S. Aldan and John W. Cox participated in the Teaching and Learning Faculty Development Institute hosted in Chuuk to acquire extensive training on the fundamentals of simulation education. The training was taught by Dr. Lorrie Wong and Dr. Kristine Qureshi from the University of Hawaii's School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, and was sponsored by Partners Investing in Nursing's Future, a grant made possible through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation.

Following the training in Chuuk, Cox went on to obtain additional training on advanced-level simulation manikins at the University of Guam.

Laerdal Medical Corp. educational services specialist Kelly McKeever and trainer Pam McKreever recently visited the Nursing Department to assemble the manikins, and to provide specific instruction on how to properly operate and care for the manikins.

"Besides enhancing nursing instruction at the college, we are now able to serve more health professionals through our CNMI Area Health Education Center at NMC," said David Attao, acting dean of Community Programs and Services.

"We are hoping to offer more training opportunities to meet the health education needs of the community, as well as to other agencies like private clinics, EMS and anyone else involved in providing medical services to people in the CNMI," said NMC Community Development Institute program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong.

The simulation manikins and related trainings were made possible through a grant from the Equipment to Enhance Training for Health Professionals Project under the Hawai'i/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center, which the CNMI AHEC program is a sub-recipient. The CNMI AHEC is a program under NMC COMPASS' Community Development Institute that aims to improve the health of people in the CNMI through education. ***(NMC)***

NMC

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, second from right, takes time to pose for a group photo with NMC faculty and staff, and visiting professionals from Laerdal Medical Corporation at the college's Nursing Skills Laboratory. The NMC faculty and staff members were receiving training on recently acquired interactive manikins (pictured in photo) that will be used to teach nursing students, as well as members in the community, important medical skills through realistic simulation.

Election for new NMC student leaders later this month

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College will choose new officers this school year in an election that will be held later this month.

The college's two-day election will be on Sept. 26 and 27 and hundreds of students are expected to participate.

Thursday was the deadline for the nomination of candidates; their names will be disclosed on Sept. 14. There are four positions up for grabs: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Winning candidates will be sworn in during an investiture ceremony on Sept. 29.

Antonio Tiples is the current president of the student organization.

In accordance with NMC's constitution, ASNMC aims to prepare students to take their places as responsible citizens by providing educational, social, recreational, and cultural experiences. It also aims to promote unity of purpose and fellowship among students as well as to serve as the focus and unifying force of all student activities and to support campus organizations.

ASNMC also develops individual leadership qualities by encouraging participation in college and community governance and student organizations as well as provide for the welfare of students.

ASNMC officers actively participate in the planning of major college events, including Charter Day, NMC's largest annual event. They also organize forums that include debates among political candidates seeking public office.

ASNMC officers are also members of the college's governance structure. It also has representatives on the Board of Regents, college council, the planning, program review, and outcomes assessment committee, the budget and finance committee, the recruitment team, graduation committee, and other groups.

The Board of Regents recently backed a measure that recommends giving voting rights to student representatives on the board. If enacted into law, this will increase the current voting members from seven to eight.

Two other individuals—the presidents of the faculty senate and staff senate—also serve as honorary board members, with no right to vote.

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Justice orders Buckingham to pay $300 sanction

» Harsher measures vs attorneys who fail to uphold professional responsibilities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI Supreme Court associate justice John A. Manglona sanctioned Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham yesterday in the amount of $300 for the Office of the Attorney General's failure to file on time a response brief to an appeal in a criminal case.

"Every citizen of the Commonwealth suffers harm when the OAG is derelict in its duties to the public," said Manglona in a four-page order.

From here on, Manglona said, "if attorneys continue to miss filing deadlines and otherwise fail to uphold their professional responsibilities, this court will be compelled to take harsher measures."

Buckingham was directed to pay the sanction to the CNMI Treasury and provide a receipt to the Supreme Court Clerk of Court within 30 days from yesterday.

Manglona's order came about after the OAG failed to file a brief on time in the case of Simon Sebuu, who had appealed his convictions for theft and criminal mischief.

The OAG's brief was due on or before May 11, 2011. On June 3, 2011, the Supreme Court clerk of court notified the OAG that it had not filed a brief in the matter.

On June 6, 2011 or 26 days after the filing deadline expired, the OAG submitted a motion to file an out-of-time brief.

In denying the OAG's petition to file a late brief, Manglona said the motion is "highly disfavored" pursuant to NMI Supreme Court Rule 31-1(b), and the facts surrounding the OAG's failure to file cannot overcome this standard.

In the June 24, 2011 show-cause order, Manglona said that Buckingham was served with both the briefing schedule and Sebuu's brief, and thus knew or should have known of the filing deadline.

Buckingham accepted responsibility for the non-performance of the OAG in the matter, and for his own omission.

"I humbly offer a sincere apology to the court for these omissions, for the adverse impact they had on the administration of justice and for the time that this issue has taken away from other responsibilities of this honorable court," Buckingham said.

He said he recognizes the importance of the procedural deficiencies arising from this matter and commit to future improvement both for himself and the OAG.

In the order issued yesterday, Manglona determined that Buckingham's conduct warrants sanctions.

Manglona said while Buckingham stated that he delegated the responsibility of checking his email to another employee at the OAG, Buckingham is responsible for supervising his employees and ensuring that he is personally aware of all documents served upon him through the e-filing system.

"The responsibility for the missed filing deadline rests entirely with the attorney general," Manglona said.

He said this is not the first time that the attorney general has been notified of appellate attorney problems at the OAG.

Manglona said Buckingham was previously apprised of a similar matter on April 9, 2010, when the Clerk of Court sent a letter notifying him that 12 of 17 pending OAG appeals listed assistant attorneys general that have since departed Saipan.

Manglona said a list of those cases accompanied the letter.

"Despite this courtesy letter, the problem remained unresolved over a year later," the associate justice said.

Manglona said during to show-cause hearing, Buckingham proposed that a monthly meeting between the Supreme Court Clerk of Court and the OAG Civil and Criminal Divisions chiefs would help solve the OAG's failure to file timely briefs.

"This proposal is not acceptable," said Manglona, citing that it is not the court's responsibility to aid the OAG in designing or approving suitable workflow procedures.

Manglona said that repeated help, as Buckingham suggests, would consume the court's scarce resources.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

na, Russia and North Korea. Opinions about South Korea are mixed.

Those attitudes, as well as results showing Japanese are reluctant to allow more foreign workers into the country, suggest a general wariness of outsiders. Some 46 percent are opposed to increasing the number of immigrants—more than double the share in favor of boosting their numbers—even though doing so would help offset the shrinking labor force as the population ages.

And while they gave their own elected leaders low marks, most Japanese think highly of the emperor and military.

Tokyo has cast a cautious eye toward China's increased military spending and more assertive stance on disputed islands in the region. Ties between the two countries deteriorated to their worst point in years last autumn when a Chinese fishing trawler and Japanese patrol vessels collided near islands controlled by Japan but claimed by both in the East China Sea.

China's state-run media have already issued warnings to new Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda for past statements suggesting that Beijing's military buildup is a regional security threat.

For protection, Japan relies on its own military and nearly 50,000 U.S. troops based in the country under a 51-year-old joint security pact. That arrangement received extra scrutiny last year when former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama sought—and ultimately failed—to move a controversial U.S. Marine base off the southern island of Okinawa.

American forces were also actively involved in humanitarian relief efforts after March's tsunami disaster.

Amid public alarm about China's assertiveness, support for the American military bases in Japan has grown to 57 percent, while 34 percent want them withdrawn. In a similar 2005 poll, Japanese were evenly divided on the issue at 47 percent.

"The U.S. military presence has received a greater acceptance, apparently because people think this region has grown more unstable than before," Foreign Minister Koichiro Genba said Monday in response to the results.

China is viewed as a threat to world peace by nearly three-quarters of respondents, and about as many have a negative impression of the country—which is also Japan's largest trading partner. Unfavorable views of Chinese leader Hu Jintao outweigh favorable views by more than 11-to-1, the AP-GfK poll showed.

North Korea, meanwhile, is viewed as a threat by even more Japanese—80 percent, up from 59 percent in 2005. The country, which fired missiles into waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan in 2005 and again in 2006, is viewed negatively by 94 percent. Its leader, Kim Jong Il, is disliked by nine in 10.

Many Japanese are supportive of their own military, called the Self-Defense Forces, with 74 percent trusting it to do the right thing all or most of the time.

But people were mixed over changing the constitution to give the military a greater international role, although more favored such a change—38 percent—than opposed—28 percent. About a third were neutral.

The Japanese Constitution, drawn up by a U.S. occupation force after World War II, prohibits the creation of an armed force that can be maintained for offensive purposes. But under pressure from the U.S. to play a larger role in regional security, Japan has become more involved in peacekeeping operations abroad. It also sent refueling ships to the Indian Ocean to help with the Afghan war.

Most Japanese continue to hold Emperor Akihito, who lacks any political power, in high esteem: 70 percent view him favorably and 65 percent feel the Imperial family still fits well with modern Japanese society.

Still, just 22 percent would favor giving the emperor power to set government policy, while 43 percent oppose such an expansion of imperial power. About a third are neutral.

President Barack Obama is seen positively by 41 percent of respondents, with the same number viewing him in a neutral way. Some 16 percent see him unfavorably. As a country, the United States is seen favorably by 49 percent, neutrally by 36 percent and unfavorably by 14 percent.

Germany garnered the smallest unfavorable rating—just 4 percent—with 48 percent giving the country a thumbs up. Chancellor Angela Merkel garnered a neutral rating from just over half the respondents, while 28 percent view her positively and 7 percent negatively.

Neighboring South Korea, whose television dramas and "K-pop" singers have become increasingly popular in Japan, isn't so popular itself, with 31 percent viewing the country positively and 27 percent negatively.

Russia, meanwhile, is viewed positively by just 11 percent and negatively by 44 percent.

Japan has come under fire internationally for its whale hunting, but the Japanese public narrowly favors whaling for commercial purposes, the survey showed. Fifty-two percent favor it, 35 percent are neutral and 13 percent are opposed. Far more men are in favor than women.

However, few—12 percent—are deeply interested in eating whale meat themselves. Most—66 percent— have little or no interest in dining on whale.

Commercial whaling is banned under a 1986 moratorium but various exceptions have allowed Japan, as well as Iceland and Norway, to hunt whales anyway. Japan claims its hunts are for research purposes, though the meat from the killed whales mostly ends up in restaurants, stores and school lunches.

The AP-GfK telephone poll conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications surveyed 1,000 adults across Japan by landline telephone between July 29 and Aug. 10, and has a margin of error of 3.8 percentage points.

FUND

From Page 1

citing the trustee's illness as the main reason for his departure.

Rosario's resignation means the board now only has six remaining trustees—Igisomar, who represents the Carolinian Affairs, Nacrina Barcinas for Rota, Jerry Crisostomo for Saipan, Bernadita Palacios for Tinian, Adelina Roberto for women's interest, and Marian Tudela for Saipan.

Meantime, board legal counsel Viola Alepuyo also announced her and other Fund lawyers' intention to resign. However, due to the board's request, they decided to withhold the submission of their resignation letters. Alepuyo did not name who among the board's attorneys intend to quit.

Igisomar said the planned "resignation of their attorneys was due to the negative impact of Public Law 17-51, or the beneficiary derivative law.

The board has already voted to announce two vacancies for lawyers' position in anticipation of the formal resignation of the attorneys. It was decided that if lawyers reconsider their plans, these JVAs would be cancelled.

Trustees said that the agency is currently dealing with several court cases and it would take time for their attorneys to be removed from each court case.

Among these lawsuits is the ongoing court judgment under Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, pertaining to the unpaid employer contributions of the central government and the complaint filed by the Fund against its longtime investment consultant, Merrill Lynch.

FITIAL

From Page 1

ture, not the Executive Branch, to undo the law, which the Retirement Fund is blaming for the pullout of its money managers and consultant.

The new law would allow beneficiaries of the NMI Retirement Fund to sue on behalf of the pension program if the board refuses to bring such legal action.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), in a separate interview, said he will be introducing a bill to repeal the new law.

Camacho said he will introduce it "with the consent of and after consultation with the Retirement Fund."

Camacho was among the five House members who voted against the passage of the derivative lawsuit bill on Aug. 9.

Inos signed Senate Bill 17-43 or the Retirement Fund Beneficiary Derivative Lawsuit Act of 2011 into Public Law 17-51 on Monday morning when he was acting governor. Fitial was still off-island at the time.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that Fitial came back right after midnight, or early Tuesday morning, around 12:30am.

Fitial, when asked by reporters yesterday whether he and Inos have already met about the signing of the derivative lawsuit law since coming back, said, "Not yet. But he and I agreed not to sign it before I left."

The governor said only the Legislature can do something about the matter, but he said he has not spoken to the Legislature about this either.

Fitial said with the Fund upset about the signing of the bill, Fund officials "should talk to the lieutenant governor because I was off-island when that thing happened."

Inos could not be reached for comment.

Sixto Igisomar, chairman of the Fund's board of trustees, earlier said that Fitial had assured him before the latter went to New Caledonia that the bill would be vetoed.

The controversial beneficiary derivative bill has been bouncing in the Legislature since September 2010 and has drawn the battle lines between the Retirement Fund and some retirees and their lawyers suing the pension program's former money manager Merrill Lynch over alleged unsound financial advice.

ANOTHER

From Page 1

"As the company's representative in the CNMI, I took it upon myself to pull out from the project while they're doing their restructuring. I made the decision, so that other investors can come in and consider the public land. I am for the development of the CNMI. This will open the door to other investors," Sablan said in a phone interview last night.

Islands Ventures is the third group of investors to cancel its investment plan on the same 5.1-hectare of public land in the Marpi/San Roque area, north of the former The Palms Resort.

The first two were Flame Sako, which had planned an $80 million hotel, and Leisure Planner which had planned a $120-million hotel.

Unlike Islands Ventures and Leisure Planner, which pulled out even before a formal lease agreement could be signed with DPL, Flame Sako abandoned its Legislature-approved lease agreement with DPL.

Island Ventures LLC's investors include a California-based company with financial investments in Hong Kong.

Despite the pullout of the third investor in a two-year span, Babauta remains optimistic that another investor will come in and consider the property.

Island Ventures' pullout came just a few months after DPL granted it temporary authorization to enter the premises for cleanup and land survey, among other things, while a lease agreement was still being worked on.

It is not yet known whether Island Ventures will also pull out its bid for the revitalization of the La Fiesta Mall.

It's one of the three bidders for the government's project, along with United Micronesia Development Association Inc., and Pacific Entertainment Technology.

Tinian mayor cries foul over 'inequity' in budget bill

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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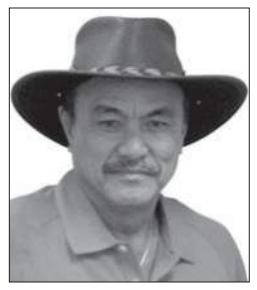
REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz appealed to the island's legislative delegation to amend the budget bill passed by the House of Representatives, describing it as "unequal" toward Tinian. He believes the measure will only worsen the island's already precarious fiscal situation if passed into law.

In a three-page letter to delegation chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider, Dela Cruz said it is unclear in House Bill 17-215 if the municipality or any of the local departments are included in the proposed budget for utilities as stipulated in the bill's section 601. He said it is only fair that if departments and agencies on Saipan are included, their respective offices on Rota and Tinian should also be included.

Dela Cruz also balked at the hiring restriction, saying he wants to renew the contract of an existing employee and fill vacant positions created by resignation, termination or retirement. The proposed budget prohibits the hiring of "new" employees except for critical and emergency positions and eliminates positions vacated and not filled within a 60-day period.


Dela Cruz

"It is important that when a position is vacated due to retirement, termination, or resignation, we should be able to fill the position within 90 days—instead of the 60-day stated in the bill—because those positions are simply replacements. No new positions are being created, and it is not surprising that personnel actions oftentimes take more than 60 days," explained Dela Cruz.

He added that the decision whether or not to fill a vacant position should be left to the expenditure authority as it is a management decision based on the availability of funds.

Dela Cruz also took issue with a section that limits his flexibility to consider further work hour cuts. "Although I can understand the desire to protect workers from further reduction in wages, it may become necessary to further reduce their work hours in order to avoid a reduction in force and to preserve their jobs due to the likelihood of further revenue decline," said the mayor.

It is also fair, he said, for municipalities to be afforded the same protection similar to the one being suggested for the Legislature, where appropriated funds may not be reduced without prior consultation.

Dela Cruz also labeled as another layer of bureaucracy a provision that requires appropriated funds to again be appropriated via a local appropriations bill.

"This is unnecessary and will further delay governmental functions in the event that a local bill is not passed in a timely manner. In addition, there seems to be an inequity in that the Saipan municipality is not treated the same way," he said.

The bill's section 706 also requires the municipality to use local funds to meet any shortfall, especially those due to any drastic increase in employer contributions. Dela Cruz said this is outrageous as it also does not apply to Saipan.

'Seek federal aid to bring down utilities costs'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said the federal government should help bring down the cost of utilities in the Commonwealth to help the islands' economic situation.

"It's very obvious that the CNMI government cannot handle the cost of utilities. It's beyond our control. Everything is dictated by the price of fossil fuel that we import. I think that's one area where the U.S. government can assist us," Dela Cruz told Saipan Tribune at the commemoration ceremony for the 10th Anniversary of Sept. 11 at the Saipan Grand Hotel on Thursday.

Dela Cruz said the federal government can either subsidize the CNMI's fuel needs or run a cost-efficient power generation to lessen the burden of the high cost of utilities among consumers, particularly business owners.

According to Dela Cruz, the high cost of utilities is a major factor in maintaining existing businesses and for entrepreneurs that want to start their companies here.

"You see people closing shop everyday because the utilities are just too expensive," said the mayor.

Dela Cruz noted that for a small community like the CNMI has given "so much in defense of freedom" that the federal government should see the islands "in a better light" now more than ever.

"We're defending freedom but our economy is in shambles and I think it's important that as part of the American nation, something should be done to assist us in bringing our standard of living up a little bit," added Dela Cruz.

SHARED HISTORY
Students from Japan's Nihon University pay a visit to the Northern Marianas College Student Center earlier this week to discuss the history between Saipan and Japan with an assembly of NMC students. This was not the first time students from Nihon made a trip to NMC since some of them do take short-term English language courses through the Community Development Institute program. Shown in this photo are CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Ulludong, far left, professor of International Relations at Nihon University Yukiko Koshiro, standing fourth from left, Student Center administrative manager Luis John Castro, far right, and students from Nihon University and NMC.

NMC

Cold Stone hosts Sept. fundraiser for Make-A-Wish

»Free ice cream to mark 10 years of helping grant wishes

TAMUNING, Guam—Cold Stone Creamery locations in Guam and the Make-A-Wish Foundation invite the community to help make wishes come true by attending the 10th Annual World's Largest Ice Cream Social on Sept. 27. From 5pm to 8pm, enjoy a free 3-ounce portion of "Sprinkled with Wishes" containing sweet cream ice cream, moist brownie, rainbow sprinkles and rich fudge, to celebrate the event.

Celebrating the 10th year of working together, Cold Stone Creamery locations will host a monthlong fundraising celebration to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam. Throughout September, every Cold Stone store will sell paper wish stars for $1 each, leading up to the 10th Annual World's Largest Ice Cream Social on Sept. 27.

"The Make-A-Wish Foundation is such an amazing charity and we are thrilled to be supporting them again for the 10th Annual World's Largest Ice Cream Social," said Sumiko Espaldon, owner of Cold Stone Creamery in Guam, with two locations at Guam Premier Outlet and Micronesia Mall. "We are hoping for a large turnout on Sept. 27 to continue raising funds to help grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions."

Both store locations will work together raising funds to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions throughout Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Cold Stone Creamery has supported the Make-A-Wish Foundation since 2002, generating a total of more than $4 million in donations across U.S. states and territories. That's enough to grant nearly 800 wishes. ***(PR)***

NEWS BRIEFS

AG's statement on autopsy case

"Our office extends its sincere condolences to the family of the late Wilben Lifoifoi. It is our goal to ensure that no more lives will be lost this way. Because we are genuine in this concern, we consider it our job to fully enforce the laws that make the roads safe for both drivers and passengers.

"We will ardently prosecute anyone whom we believe has broken these laws and we must be allowed to gather the evidence, including autopsy evidence, that allows us to do our job.

"We ask for this not out of disrespect for the grieving family, but out of a desire that justice be done and that future families may be spared from such loss." ***(Office of the Attorney General)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

Sept. 12, from 11:30am to 9pm
Sept. 14-15, from 11:30am to 9pm
Sept. 16, from 2pm to 6:30pm

The Navy and Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 13, from 7:30am to 9pm.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(USN)***

CONGRATULATIONS! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Newlyweds Ron Atalig Muña and Laurel Kesolei became the first couple to be officiated by Ramona V. Manglona since she took office as chief judge for the U.S. District Court for the CNMI. The couple got married on Sep 9, 2011.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Protect taxpayers from the waste, fraud and abuse of wartime contracting

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For anyone suspicious of waste, fraud and abuse in the federal budget, the joint select committee on deficit reduction has an obvious target: wartime contracting.

The committee co-chaired by Washington Sen. Patty Murray holds its organizational meeting on Thursday. The searing final report of a bipartisan panel looking at the mugging of U.S. taxpayers in Iran and Afghanistan should be a top agenda item.

The congressionally chartered Commission on Wartime Contracting concluded at least $31 billion was lost to waste and fraud, with the number possibly as high as $60 billion. Even those figures were considered conservative if lucrative make-work projects and training cannot be sustained by the local governments.

The notion of no such thing as a free lunch is utterly challenged by federal rules that mandate heavy support by private contractors for "contingency operations" involving U.S. forces in hostile situations or national disasters.

More than 260,000 contractors worked in Iraq and Afghanistan, with overhead and expenses expected to top $200 billion. The commission not only found what its chairman described as an overreliance on contractors, but also that no one was paying attention.

Arcane federal rules and a zealous indifference to the absence of contract management, oversight and interagency coordination combined to enrich contractors at taxpayer expense. Abuse was found in lots of areas, including food contracting, maintenance, rental agreements and construction.

Sloppy work, sloppy contracts, dubious business practices and a fundamental lack of trained federal employees looking out for taxpayers is a short but by no means comprehensive list of the failings.

The use of private security forces ought to draw attention. They are a particular frustration with the commission members, who spent three years cataloging a range of problems.

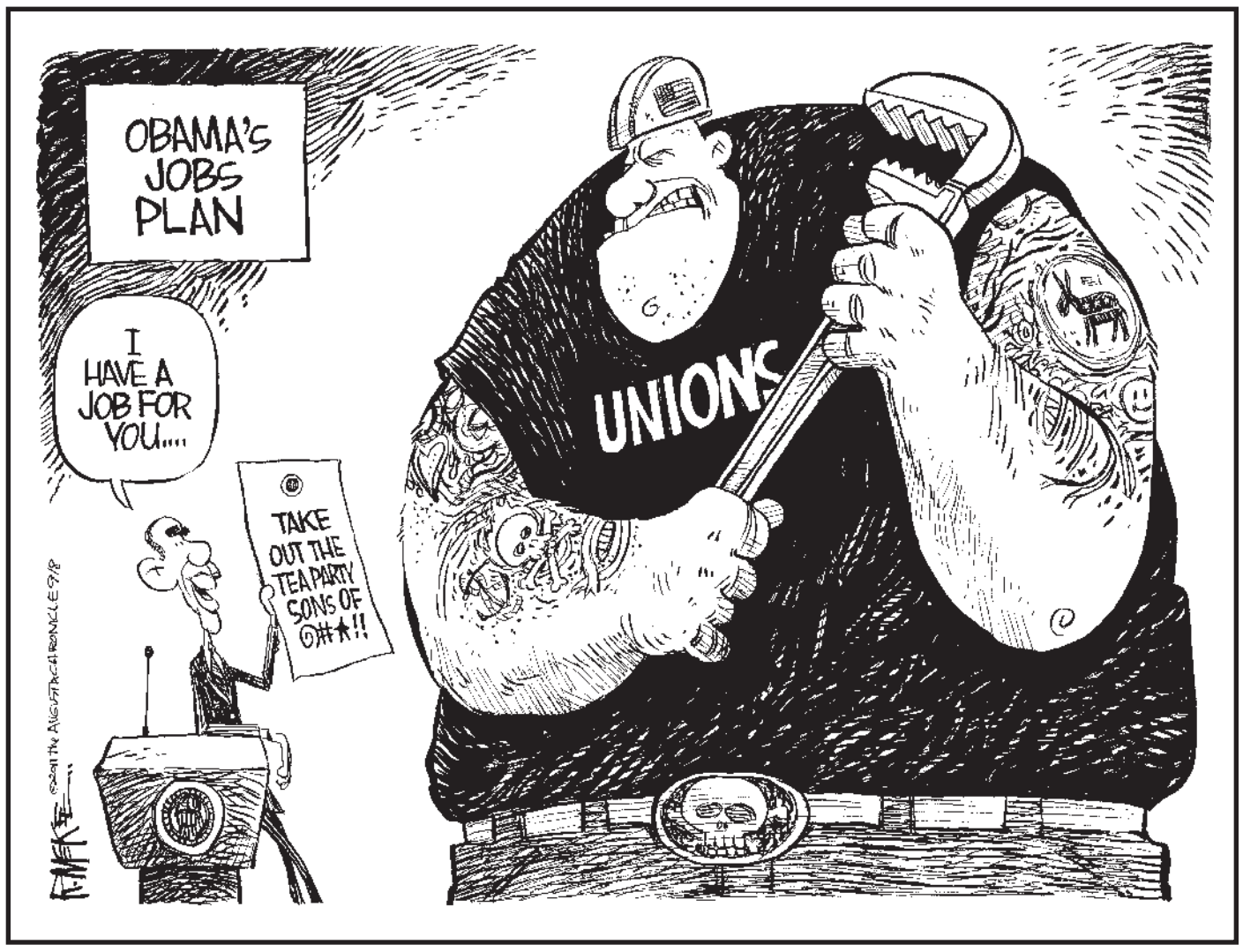
A failure to have official expectations for contract delivery and performance, and systematic ways to gather and review data is broadly summed up as a lack of regulatory oversight.

The absence of a bureaucratic template to protect taxpayer interests echoes the financial collapse on Wall Street and the subprime mortgage debacle. Organized, moneyed interests lobbied hard to water down the rules and discourage any enforcement.

Those same lobbyists will be back in force to resist any reforms, as they pound on the table about jobs and national security. They might even volunteer the names of a few new enemies for the defense establishment to go after. The commission report acknowledged the temptation to look the other way and avoid paying for reforms in tight budget times, but added:

"Congress must resist that temptation and recognize preparedness for emergencies requiring contingency contracting is as much a national-security priority as procuring weapons systems."

Congress can expedite the ending of two wars and reform the way they are fought and paid for.



The high cost of protecting America

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Ten years ago, before 9/11 made terrorism our national preoccupation, the agencies that now make up the Department of Homeland Security spent about $22 billion a year on public safety and emergency management. Now Homeland Security is the third-biggest department in the federal government, with more than 230,000 employees and a budget of $55 billion a year.

Before 9/11, the United States spent about $30 billion a year on its civilian intelligence agencies; today, such spending has nearly doubled to about $55 billion, more than the entire State Department budget. Add in spending on military intelligence, and the intelligence budget comes to more than $80 billion.

How much additional security have we gained from all that spending? It's impossible to say.

As officials will assure us many times over the coming days, we're safer than we were on 9/11, and they're right. Al-Qaida's central leadership is crumbling. Its members still plot against the United States, but their plans have all been foiled so far. Only a handful of extremist attacks on U.S. territory have succeeded since 9/11, all small-scale actions by American citizens with guns, not international terrorists on airplanes.

Does that mean we can consider de-escalating our massive internal security campaign?

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano was asked that question recently, and she gave a crisp answer: "No."

"The threat against the United States," she said, is something "that we now have to deal with, I think, throughout the foreseeable future."

But growing numbers of experts and authorities are beginning to ask whether we are spending more than we need to.

"If you ramp up fast, and we felt we had to ramp up after 9/11… you're going to overspend," noted Thomas Kean, the former Republican governor of New Jersey who chaired the official commission on the lessons of 9/11.

"We didn't pay attention to costs," agreed the panel's vice chairman, former Rep. Lee H. Hamilton of Indiana, a Democrat.

Part of the problem was described last week in a Times article by my colleague Kim Murphy. Federal grants have funded hundreds of dubious projects deemed priorities by local law enforcement agencies, from cattle-moving equipment in Nebraska (in case of an attack on livestock) to an 8-foot fence around a veterans hospital in North Carolina (in case of an attack on ailing veterans).

But the issue is bigger than the pork-barrel spending that counterterrorism grants make possible.

The massive expansion of the homeland security state began in the understandable panic immediately after 9/11, but it continued from there.

The public's desire for safety and Congress' desire to please have combined to make it easy for spending to increase but almost impossible for anyone to argue that it should decrease. Once a program is in place, no one wants to be responsible for killing it, for fear of being blamed in the event of an attack.

"If you sit down and start arguing with somebody about whether a given security step is necessary, you've got a tough burden of persuasion … because they can give you 101 reasons why a particular step is important," Hamilton said last week.

As a result, we spend money on measures that we hope will make us safer without knowing for sure whether the added amount of safety is worth the extra cost.

Take the Transportation Security Administration's controversial program to install enhanced screening devices in the nation's airports. The advanced machines have drawn criticism from passengers concerned about privacy or radiation.

But the question of whether the scanners' cost provides sufficient benefit was never fully considered, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Most of us would probably favor installing those machines, no matter what a cost-benefit analysis said, because we want airline travel to be as safe as possible. But we're making that call on a gut level.

To take another example, Congress has passed a law that requires Homeland Security to screen 100 percent of the maritime cargo destined for U.S. ports by 2012, no matter what it is or where it's from. Napolitano has said the requirement is too broad and too costly to be worthwhile, and she's right. But Congress hasn't mustered the political will to change the law.

A few members of Congress from both parties have bravely argued that tougher scrutiny is needed, especially in view of the need to reduce the federal deficit. "We can get a better result for less money," Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., argued earlier this year. But so far, only a few have taken aim at this part of the budget.

There's no such thing as too much security. But there is such a thing as security that's too expensive, such as an 8-foot fence around a low-risk target.

Ten years after 9/11, it's time to face the fact that every risk can't be eliminated—and time to weigh the costs and benefits of security spending more openly.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Noy Tsinoy

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Also spelled *Chinoy,* the word used by Pinoys to refer to one of their kind of Zhongguo ancestry. The historic ties between Fugian Province in the mid-eastern shores of China and the Philippines include Limahong of the jaded reputation as a notorious pirate in Hispanic history that unsettled Legaspi's colonial occupation of Luzon, to the ancestry of national hero Jose P. Rizal, whose great-great grandfather Ke Yi hailed from Jinjiang.

The reason we alternate the geographical reference between *Zhongguo,* the middle realm, and *China,* the land of the Qin, is that the Chinese refer to themselves with the first, while the second was Persia's designation, and later picked up by Marco Polo on his return to Europe from the "Far East"; in fact, Zhongguoren (Chinese) historically refer to themselves as the People of the Han rather than of the Qin, until its 55 ethnic minorities got incorporated fully into the body politic. "China" continues as the European and global designation! On the other hand, the *tianji*—the yin-yang, taken off popular usage after the 1949 drive against superstition—might be worth another look as it points to the paradox of holding two distinct forces in balance where the middle realm, the pivot point, is both the crossroad of tension and tranquility.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III responded last week to a previous invitation from China's President Hu Jin Tao for a state visit. Preceded by the Philippine Navy's glowing acceptance of a U.S. warship donation to bolster its naval patrol off the waters of the Spratly, Noynoy (Pinoys love the informality of their reference to their leaders: Macoy for Marcos, Cory, Ninoy, and Noynoy—now, just Noy, for the Aquinos) received the fanfare and trappings of a sovereign visit with the not too subtle reminder that it is not China who is intruding into Philippine waters in the South China Sea, as it is the other way around.

No matter. The state visit by all accounts was beneficial all around including the 300-some folks who accompanied President Aquino's entourage. A *coup de grâce* to the visit, but of deep significance to Pinoys, was Noynoy's scheduled visit to the village of his fourth-generation ancestor Xy Yuhuan in the Hongjiang village of Fujian.

Twenty-three years before, in 1988, Noy's mother Cory visited her ancestral village, lit incense at the ancestral clan's sacred space, and planted an *araucaria* sapling that is now 10 meters high. In the characteristic Zhongguoren's affinity to natural space and interpretations of changes thereof (*feng shui),* villagers noticed that Cory's tree split into two and grew two branches, inviting the interpretation that the tree foreshadowed the ascendancy, like that of Cory, to one of her own to the Office of the President.

Micronesian-originating typhoon Nanmadol that ravaged the Philippines turned its fury toward Fujian and Shejiang, wreaking havoc with strong gales and uncharacteristic tall ocean waves on both provinces prior to Noy's visit to his ancestral home. The inland flooding has resulted in various states of emergency.

An internal whirlwind and internal flooding is occurring in the Pinoy psyche after the *Manila Bulletin* pulled out James Soriano's iThink OpEd on *language and identity*, turning viral in cyberspace terrain. Soriano expressed gratitude to his mom for teaching him more than just rudimentary familiarity with English. Stating the obvious, that Filipino is the language of the street but English is the language of the learned, Soriano's opinion touched a nerve that subjected it to varied interpretations and awakened latent prejudices.

English and Pilipino (primarily based on Tagalog, the language around Metropolitan Manila, much as Mandarin, the language of Beijing, is the basis of the Putunghua) were designated as the languages of the Philippines by its Constitution. Born in Central Luzon of parents from Ilocandia, growing up in Northern Luzon, lived in the Visayas and worked in Mindanao including the Muslim territories, I learned Pilipino as an academic requirement but English is the national *lingua franca* in all respect—communications, commerce and governance. Pinoys in Hawaii have their state laws translated first in Ilocano before anything else Philippine.

Soriano's opinion might very well be arrogant elitism *and* a statement of the linguistic schizophrenia abiding on the islands, yet we encourage ChEnglish (not unlike e.g., Singapore's Singlish) in our Oral English classes in Dong Bei—to think Zhongguo using English expressions. With the world coming to China (World Bank president just visited China to encourage Asian investments in the West!) and Zhongguo going to the world (every other student seems to want to study abroad), there is nothing schizophrenic about utilizing two language expressions, even if it is in the same thought patterns, as we discovered of our self and our use of William and Kate's language in our speaking, reading (sing-song, Rob Torres noted when we were with the NMICH), and writing.

World-wise street-smart Pinoys welcome Noynoy, the self-conscious Chinoy, as some of us, too, drank deeply in that lineage. It is well to reclaim that heritage. Might we suggest that the Marianas Kings, Cings, and the Hans, et al, do likewise?

Why the 9/11 attacks were no Pearl Harbor

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News*. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

As the nation marks Sunday's 10th anniversary of 9/11, these terrorist attacks have assumed a place in American history as the 21st century equivalent of the Pearl Harbor attack two generations earlier.

It's an event that millions of Americans will recall forever and recount to their children and grandchildren.

Like Pearl Harbor, 9/11 involved a dangerous adversary traumatizing the nation by striking unexpectedly, instantly transforming the nation's focus from home to abroad and leaving significant lasting consequences. President George W. Bush often likened his role as a wartime president fighting terrorism to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's in World War II.

In both cases, some were asleep at the switch. After Pearl Harbor, two top U.S. military commanders in Hawaii were fired, though supporters said they were scapegoats for superiors' failures. Before 9/11, neither Bush nor his top advisers reacted to a national security briefing suggesting a threat of an al-Qaeda terrorist attack, possibly with hijacked planes.

In a recent National Geographic television interview, Bush said that, in the hours after the attack, "I thought about, 'Why didn't we know this?'" He concluded he'd rather bring those responsible "to justice" as opposed to looking back and pointing fingers. Subsequent investigations cited intelligence failures by both the Clinton and Bush administrations, especially within the FBI and CIA.

In the longer run, how the horrific events happened seems less important than how our leaders reacted.

And from a decade's perspective, the United States, while probably safer, seems economically and politically weaker at home and abroad, in contrast to the way it stood militarily and economically triumphant 10 years after Pearl Harbor.

To be sure, managing World War II and its aftermath was easier, since it was a classic fight against nations and their leaders. The war on terror, despite some successes, and the attendant consequences remain more complex.

Here are some areas in which comparisons suggest the United States and its leaders managed the post-Pearl Harbor world more effectively than the post-9/11 world:

Pearl Harbor prompted a total national mobilization to defeat the aggressors. "Dr. Win-the-War," Roosevelt said, replaced "Dr. New Deal." Though Bush invoked national unity, he never sought any national sacrifice. Taxes were cut, not increased, and the military bore the principal burden, physically and psychologically.

Economically, World War II mobilization ended years of post-Depression unemployment, laying the basis for future economic success by modernizing the American industrial plant. Bush financed the Iraq and Afghanistan wars by withholding costs from regular budgets and borrowing billions, contributing to a budget deficit that exploded 85 percent during his presidency.

Politically, Roosevelt united the country behind the war's goals, enlisting top Republicans such as Henry Stimson and 1940 opponent Wendell Willkie, though the parties kept fighting over other issues.

After initial unity and significant bipartisan support for attacking Iraq, Bush used the war on terror as a political tool, accusing Democratic opponents of weakness. His support faded as the two wars dragged on and evidence emerged that he had misstated the Iraqi threat.

Militarily, Roosevelt kept the focus on defeating Hitler's Germany before Japan, achieving a total victory that destroyed the aggressors and left the United States as the world's main power.

Bush switched focus prematurely to Iraq from Afghanistan, despite lacking evidence of Saddam Hussein's involvement in 9/11. His administration botched the post-military conquest of Iraq, leaving an over-stretched military still struggling to win in Afghanistan and extricate itself from Iraq.

A decade after Pearl Harbor, the United States stood supreme, despite the tensions of the Cold War with the Soviet Union and a shooting conflict in Korea. The country was stronger militarily, economically and strategically than before.

That is not true today. While experts generally believe the United States is less vulnerable to terrorism, the nation's global position as a whole has weakened in the decade since 9/11.

Racial inequality in education hurts America's global competitiveness

By DAVID A. LOVE
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

Racial inequality in education may be keeping America back.

Unemployment is high these days, especially among unskilled workers, and it looks as if our nation's schools are not preparing students for the global economy.

According to a study from the Program on Education Policy and Governance at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, U.S. students lag behind many other countries in math and reading skills. African-American and Latino students, in particular, are falling way behind.

America's 2011 high school graduating class gets a bad report card, and it reflects poorly on everyone. Only 32 percent were proficient in math and 31 percent in reading. A mere 11 percent of black students were proficient in math, as opposed to 50 percent of Asians, 42 percent of whites, 16 percent of American Indians and 15 percent of Latino students.

And in reading, only 18 percent of American Indian students, 13 percent of black students and 4 percent of Latino students were proficient, compared to 40 percent of white students and 41 percent of Asian students.

Compared to the rest of the world, the United States ranks 32nd in math. Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan and South Korea have a majority or near majority of students performing at the proficient level, unlike in the United States.

Meanwhile in reading, the United States ranks 17th, with 10 countries significantly ahead. In South Korea, 47 percent of the students are proficient in reading, with other high-ranking nations including Finland (46 percent), Singapore and New Zealand (42 percent), Japan and Canada (41 percent), Australia (38 percent) and Belgium (37 percent).

The bottom line is that the United States could have both smarter students and a higher GDP growth if it increased its math proficiency levels to that of Canadian and South Korean students. In the long term, this could translate into an additional $1 trillion in the economy each year, the study said.

And although white students in the United States are also underperforming when compared to a number of other advanced nations, America will have to seriously grapple with an educational system that produces a large achievement gap based on race and ethnicity, and a pipeline to prison for youth of color.

This is not the blatant racism of hate crimes and racial epithets, but rather a silent, systemic, institutional racism that allows inferior schools to fester in poor, black and brown urban areas.

We need more investments in schools, at a time when tea party governors, state legislators and members of Congress seek to slash billions of dollars in funds to education.

Americans will rise and fall together based on whether all of our children are learning. Right now, they are not. And we can't tolerate this any longer.

David A. Love is a writer for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine*.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

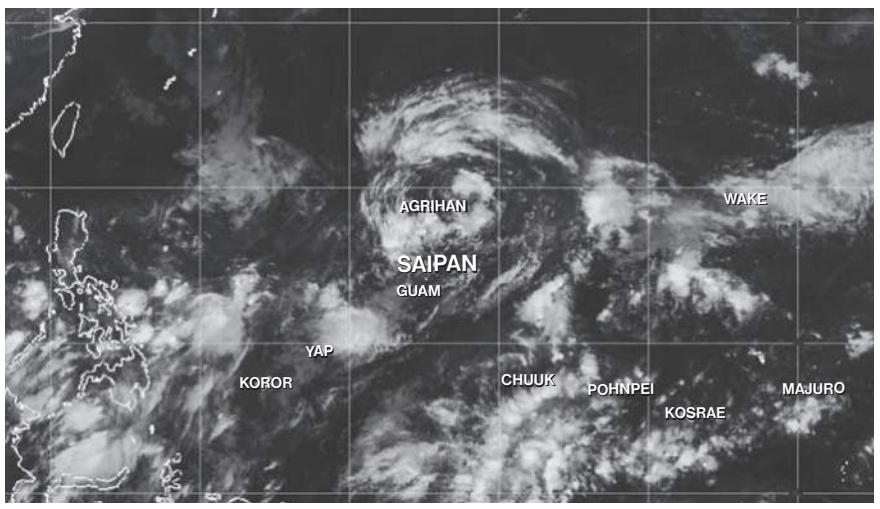
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Sunny	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼74
Kosrae	Rain	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼60
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Showers	▲72	▼60
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼80
New York	Thundershowers	▲80	▼63
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Paris	Showers	▲68	▼57
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲79	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲87	▼66
Salem	Sunny	▲98	▼61
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲77	▼68
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲82	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Kulap (17W) is centered east of Okinawa at 27N132E moving northwest at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located mainly south of the circulation center between 25N and 19N from 131E to 137E. For more information on Tropical Storm Kulap, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A monsoon trough curves northeastward from 11N130E to a circulation centered northeast of the Marianas at 19N148E to end near 22N161E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over the Guam and the CNMI within 100 miles of a line from 12N142E to 17N152E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring across the far Northern Marianas between 25N and 17N from 142E to 151E farther east. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are located southwest of Wake Island within 100 miles of a line from 16N156E to 19N161E. Converging southwest winds are generating scattered showers over Koror and Yap between 11N and 6N from 131E to 140E. Converging east winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of Chuuk between 13N and 10N from 152E to 156E and southwest of Chuuk within 140 miles of a line from EQ146E to 8N149E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Pohnpei between 7N and the equator from 153E to 160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:49 PM	4:02 AM
Sunday	5:27 PM	4:51 AM
Monday	6:04 PM	5:39 AM
Tuesday	6:40 PM	6:26 AM
Wednesday	7:16 PM	7:13 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5	C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)**			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5	C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 4, 7
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)				**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7	5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				**OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN**			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z750/603	1:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat)
Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 10, 1999

Leg. reviews $60 million bond for CIP projects
The proposed $60 million bond now moving forward in the Legislature is intended to boost the local economy and lawmakers are hopeful it would be finalized by the end of this year. According to Rep. Karl T. Reyes, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the proposed allocation of the funds should be similar to the spending plan implemented by the Governor's 702 Multi-Agency CIP Task Force. That spending plan required projects to be selected for funding through a prioritizing process where certain criteria would be met for each specific project.

Teno vetoes amendment on garment workers
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday disapproved a proposed amendment to a law that sets the cap on the number of guest workers in the garment industry in fear that it could open up a loophole to increase, instead of reduce, the sector's foreign labor pool. The veto came on the day of his departure for Washington D.C. to attend next week's congressional hearings tackling local labor and immigration reforms. "I am concerned it would undermine the intentions of Public Law 11-76 and potentially create an environment in which the total number of alien workers in the garment industry will never be reduced," the governor said in his veto message.

Sept. 10, 2001

CDA may seize CUC assets
The Commonwealth Development Authority may seize the assets of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation if it fails to comply with a court ruling, ordering it to settle $102 million in delinquent loans. CDA counsel F. Matthew Smith said that his client may resort to the regular course of collecting loans if the utility company does not voluntarily pay the relief granted by the CNMI Superior Court. This, even as he stressed that he believes the CUC has the capability to pay its obligations to the government-owned lending agency.

New funding eyed for Tinian school
The Tinian Elementary School may soon receive additional funding amounting to $1.2 million, courtesy of a bill passed by the House of Representatives during Friday's session. The lower chamber passed on first and final reading House Bill 12-411 reappropriating $1.2 million from the $2.79 that was originally set aside for the new 7th and 8th grade classrooms of the elementary school. The measure now heads to the Senate for adoption. According to Rep. Norman Palacios, the measure's author, the Tinian Legislative Delegation has found that, due to changing priorities and requirements of the school, it has become necessary for certain capital improvement projects appropriated under Public Law 11-89 to be reprioritized.

Sept. 10, 2002

HR society tackles OSHA issues
The Commonwealth's chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management, the CNMI's professional personnel organization, will hold its monthly membership meeting on Thursday, Sept. 12, at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's Restaurant. Guest speaker is Bob Scruggs of Scruggs Consultant Services who will discuss how to handle OSHA inspections, new OSHA record-keeping requirements, and OSHA rules for barracks and offices. Non-members in the business community, whether owners, managers or human resource professionals, are invited to learn more about the Society and improve their human resource knowledge through the presentation and discussion.

Saipan airport improvements on the go
Work is underway to make the Saipan International Airport one of the world's finest, as the Commonwealth Ports Authority sets its sight to wider range of activities at the island's air transport facility. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed plans to discuss with CPA's two major concession operators-Duty Free Shoppers and LSG-on the possibility of bringing new products and services to their respective airport operations. Salas described the proposed discussion as a way to encourage both the DFS and the LSG to make a wider range of items available for visitors, thus enticing departing passengers to spend a little more on the island before they finally leave.

Maharlika

'For jobless OFWs, it's not the end of the world'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Filipinos in the CNMI who are unable to find employers to obtain legal status on the islands—as required by the final worker rule issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security—should not regard it as "the end of the world" for them, according to Consul General Medardo Macaraig.

"Just because you don't qualify to stay based on the worker rule doesn't mean it's the end of the world. If you cannot stay, the Philippines is ready to welcome you back home," Macaraig said in an interview yesterday.

The 149-page final rule creates a Commonwealth-only worker status or CW permit that will allow foreign workers to remain on the islands until Dec. 31, 2014, which is the end of the federalization transition period.

Employers are given less than three months to apply for CW permits for all of their foreign employees or at least have the CW permit application in process by Nov. 27, 2011. Otherwise, these foreign workers will face deportation.

Macaraig disclosed that they have already sent a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Philippines notifying the office about the release of the final rule.

Macaraig reiterated several times that the final rule is "very clear" that foreign workers who do not have legal status will "have to go home."

"Filipinos cannot stay if they're illegals here," Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "But they can go back to the country that they love and loves them back."

Macaraig maintained that since his arrival two years ago, he has given emphasis to the three options that Filipino workers in the CNMI have: to remain legally in the islands, find job opportunities elsewhere through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, or go back to the Philippines.

Since many Filipinos have lost their jobs in the Commonwealth as a result of the islands' economic decline, Macaraig said they constantly remind Filipino workers about job prospects in other countries that employ their skills and talents and the option to go back to the Philippines where opportunities are "boundless."

Consul Belinda Ante explained that Filipinos looking for a source of income in the Philippines—whether through employment or livelihood program—actually have far better chances because of our nation's "huge market."

"Unfortunately, there's not much that we can do at this point. The federal authorities have already spoken," said Macaraig.

Lingering issues

Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez raised concerns about the lack of implementing guidelines that would educate all stakeholders on "how to go about" the final rule.

"With the lack of implementing guidelines, there are a lot of questions that need to be addressed," she said.

These questions, Velasquez said, include what's going to happen on Nov. 28 or right after foreign nationals are allowed to stay in the CNMI under the federal law; what happens to U.S. citizen children of foreign workers who remain jobless by Nov. 27 and need to be repatriated; and what will be the role of the local labor office in all this, among others.

While their primary focus at this point is the Filipino workers already in the CNMI, Velasquez noted that the Philippine Department of Labor would need to know as well what the process will be if and when outside workers are hired through a CW permit.

Velasquez also noted their concern in the final rule wherein foreign workers who are voluntarily dismissed from employment will have to shoulder their cost of transportation when going back to their home country.

Macaraig and Velasquez both confirmed that they already asked for a meeting with USCIS representatives to clarify these concerns, with representatives of Filipino organizations joining them in the meeting.

He added that Filipinos on Tinian and Rota will be advised about the results of the meeting as well.

Repatriation assistance

Macaraig pointed out that voluntary repatriation by the Consulate, particularly for elderly and sick Filipinos, has long been ongoing.

He said that with the Philippine government's own financial shortfall, it has prioritized repatriation for Filipinos in war zones such as the Middle East, which is why a budget request for Filipinos in the CNMI will have to be made.

Velasquez said the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration can provide assistance to Filipinos who do not have employers but are active members with OWWA.

She said Filipino workers on island are estimated at 7,500, with about 3,000 of them active OWWA members.

Tugon sa ilang katanungan tungkol sa CNMI Transitional Worker Classification

Ang U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ay naghain ng pinakahuling patakaran na nagtatatag ng Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa classification, o CW, para sa mga banyagang manggagawa sa Commonwealth ng Northern Mariana Islands. Ang CW visa classification ay epektibo habang ang sistema ng banyagang permit ng manggagawa ay inililipat sa U.S. batas pang imigrasyon. Sa panahon ng transisyong ito, ang mga employer ng mga nonimmigrant na manggagawa na hindi matatanggap sa ibang employment-based na uri ng nonimmigrant visa ay maaring mag-aplay para sa pansamantalang pagpayag upang bigyan ng trabaho ang mga manggagawa sa CNMI sa ilalim ng klasipikasyong CW. Ang panahon ng transisyon ay pormal na nagsimula noong Nob. 28,2009, at matatapos sa Dis.31,2014.

MGA PANGKALAHATANG TANONG

Q1. Ano lamang ang magagawa ng CNMI Transition Worker (CW)?

A1. Ang CW ay nagbibigay ng makatarungang U.S. na estado sa pansamantalang imigrasyon sa mga karapatdapat na mga banyagang manggagawa na:

■ Nagbibigay ng mga serbisyo o trabaho para sa empleyado sa CNMI; at

■ Hindi karapat-dapat para sa anumang uri ng employment-based na nonimmigrant visa sa ilalim ng INA.

Ang mga Manggagawang Transisyonal ay inaasahang makahahanap ng angkop na alternatibong estado sa imigrasyon bago ang pagtatapos ng panahon transisyon kung nais nila na manatili sa CNMI. Ang patakaran ay pumapayag sa mga empleyado upang isaayos ang kanilang gawain sa pagkuha ng empleyado at para sa mga karapat-dapat na mga banyagang manggagawa na makakuha ng nonimmigrant o immigrant na klasipikasyong visa na mayroon sa INA.

Q2. Paano makaaapekto ang patakaran sa pamumuhay at pagtatrabaho ng mga banyagang manggagawa sa CNMI.

A2. Ang patakaran ay pumapayag sa mga employer sa CNMI upang tulungan ang mga manggagawang nonimmigrant na hindi karapat-dapat magtrabaho sa ilalim ng INA at magbigay sa mga banyagang manggagawa hanggang Dis. 31, 2014, upang matukoy ang wastong panghabambuhay na katayuan sa Imigrasyon para sa kanilang sarili at kanilang pamilya. Mahigit 22,000 mga banyagang manggagawa sa CNMI ay potensiyal na karapat-dapat para sa pansamantalang katayuang CW visa.

Q3. Ang lahat ba mga banyagang mangagawa ay karapat-dapat para sa klasipikasyong visa na CW?

A3. Hindi. Ang mga banyagang manggagawa na karapat-dapat para sa employment-based na klasipikasyong nonimmigrant visa ay hindi karapat-dapat para sa programang ito. Dagdag pa dito, ang banyagang nasyonal na nasa CNMI ay dapat na legal na magpakita sa CNMI, na inilalarawan sa Tanong 6.

Q4. Ano ang mga kinakailangan ng isang indibidwal upang maging kwalipikado para sa CNMI-lamang na Transitional Worker visa?

A4. Upang maging kwalipikado ang isang indibidwal para sa katayuang CW visa, ang empleyado at ang banyagang nasyonal ay dapat parehong matugunan ang mga pangunahing kinakilangan.

Mga kinakailangan para sa mga Employer

Upang maging karapat-dapat upang magpetisyon sa manggagawa para sa katayuang CW visa, ang mga empleyado ay kinakailangang:

■ Maging tapat sa lehitimong negosyo, na ipinaliwanag sa panghuling patakaran;

■ Isaalang-alang ang lahat ng mga U.S. citizen na manggagawa para sa posisyon;

■ Mag-alok ng mga termino at mga kondisyon ng pagtatrabaho alinsunod sa uri ng negosyo ng employer sa CNMI;

■ Ipatas ang mga kinakailangang porm upang kumuha ng mga manggagawang transisyonal;

■ Tumupad sa lahat ng mga pederal at kinakailangan sa CNMI na may kaugnayan sa pagtatrabaho, kasama ang ngunit limitado sa walang diskriminasyon, pangkalitagsan okyupisyunal at mga kinakailangan sa minimum na pasahod; at

■ Bayaran ang mga nagastos ng mga manggagawa sa transportasyon sa kanilang huling lugar na banyagang tirahan kung sila ay hindi boluntaryong tinanggal sa trabaho sa anumang dahilan bago matapos ang oras ng awtorisadong pagtanggap.

Mga kinakailangan para sa mga Manggagawa

Ang indibidwal ay maaaring karapat-dapat sa klasipikasyong CW-1 nonimmigrant kung siya ay:

■ Ay karapat-dapat sa anumang iba pang nonimmigrant na employment-based na katayuan sa ilalim ng U.S.na pang-imigrasyong batas;

■ Ay papasok o mananatili sa CNMI upang magtrabaho sa katergoryang pang okupisyunal na pagtalaga bilang kinakailangang banyagang manggagawa upang tustusan ang residenteng lakas-paggawa;

■ Ay ang makikinabang ng petisyong inapila ng lehitimong employer na nagnenegosyo sa CNMI;

■ Ay wala sa Estados Unidos, maliban sa CNMI ;

■ Ay makatarungang naroon sa CNMI kapag dumalo sa CNMI; at

■ Ay kaya'y katanggap-tanggap sa Estados Unidos o ginawaran ng anumang kinakailangang waiver sa saligan ng di-pagtanggap.

Q5. Ano ang magkakwalipika bilang "lehitimong negosyo" sa ilalim ng patakarang ito?

A5. Ang panghuling patakaran ay naglalarawan na ang lehitimong negosyo ay "tunay, aktibo, at komersiyal na gumagana o entrepreniyural na umiiral na lumilikha ng mga serbisyo at mga kalakal para sa tubo, o pang-gobyerno, pang-charity, o iba pang balidong pagkilala sa walang tubong ari-arian. Ang negosyo ay kinakailangang matugunan ang mga legal na kinakailangan sa pagnenegosyo sa CNMI. Ang negosyo ay hindi ituturing na lehitimo kung ito ay derikta o di deriktang nakikipag-ugnayan sa prostitusyon, trapiking ng mga wala pa sa hustong gulang, o iba pang aktibidad na illegal sa ilalim ng pederal o batas CNMI."

Q6. Ano ang ibig sabihin ng "legal na pagpapakilala sa CNMI" sa layunin ng karapat-dapat para sa klasipikasyong nonimmigrant?

A6. Upang maging karapat-dapat upang mabigyan ng katayuan sa CNMI, ang indibidwal ay kinakailangang mataong dumulog sa CNMI. Nangangahulugan ito na ang tao ay dapat na (1) sa panahon

na ang aplikasyon para sa katayuan ay inapila, manatali sa loob ng oras ng awtorisadong pananatili sa pamamagitan ng "umbrella permit" o iba pang awtorisasyon ng CNMI (na mawawalan ng bisa hindi hihigit sa Nob. 27,2011); o (2) manatili sa oras ng makataong admisyon o parol sa CNMI na iginawad ng Kagawaran ng Homeland Security (DHS), maliban sa admisyon o parol bilang turista o negosyanteng bisita.

Q7. Ano ang Admisyon Kowd para sa klasipikasyon ng bisang ito ?

A7. Ang Kowd sa klasipikasyong pagtanggap na nonimmigrant visa ay CW-1 para sa prinsipal CNMI-lamang na Manggagawang Transisyunal at CW-2 para sa kanilang mga kasamahan.

Q8. Maaari bang pahabain ang klasipikasyong visa na lalagpas sa Dis.31, 2014?

A8. Oo. Ang klasipikasyong CW visa ay kasalukuyang mawawalan ng bisa sa katapusan ng panahon ng transisyon sa Dis.31, 2014. Gayunman, and Kagawaran ng Paggawa ng U.S. ay may kapangyarihan upang pahabain ang balidong panahon sa mga kategoryang CNMI Transitional Worker visa sa Dis. 31,2014. Ang Kalihim ng Paggawa ay maaring magpahaba sa programa ng transisyunal na manggagwa kung ito ay matukoy na kasalukuyan at kaaya-ayang paggawa na kinakailangang patunayan ang naturang ekstensiyon upang masiguro ang sapat na paggawa sa CNMI.

Q9. Ilan ang mga pampublikong komento na natanggap ng DHS sa Interim Final Rule?

A9. Ang DHS ay nakatanggap ng 146 na mga komento mula sa malawak na saklaw ng indibidwal at organisasyon, kabilang ang Gobyernong Tanggapan ng CNMI, ang Saipan Chamber of Commerce, isang dating senador ng CNMI at iba pang mga interesadong organisasyon at indibidwal. Itinuturing ng DHS ang lahat ng mga komento sa paghahanda sa huling patakan na ito. Ang mga detalye ay maaring makita sa huling patakaran na Registrong Pederal.

MGA KATANUNGAN PARA SA MGA EMPLOYER

Q10. Kailan maaaring maghain ng petisyon ang mga employer para sa mga empleyado?

A10. Ang mga employer ay maaring magsimulang maghain ng petisyon sa Okt. 7, 2011. Ang employer, gayunman, ay hindi maaring mag-aplay para sa manggagawa nang higit sa anim na buwan bago ang petsa na ang employer ay nangangailangan ng serbisyo ng manggagawa. Halimbawa, kung ang employer ay nangangailangan ng serbisyo ng manggagawa sa Hulyo 1, ang employer ay maaring magsumite ng petisyon para sa manggagawa na hindi mas maaga sa Ene.1 ng parehong taon.

Q11. Kung ang employer ay kasalukuyang nagtatrabaho sa CNMI sa ilalim ng "umbrella permit" o iba pang awtorisasyon sa paggawa sa CNMI na mapapawalang bisa sa Nob.27, 2011, kailan kinakailangan ng employer na magpetisyon para sa manggagawang ito upang makuha ang katayuang CW?

A11. Ang empleyado ay dapat magpetisyon sa manggagawa sa oras o bago ang Nob. 27,2011. Ang mga empleyado ay kinakailangang legal na magpakita sa CNMI sa petsa ng paghahain ng petisyon upang maging karapat-dapat para sa pagtanggap ng katayuang CW. Ang mga empleyado na ang awtorisasyon sa paggawa sa ilalim ng CNRA ay mawawalan ng bisa sa Nob.27,2011, at sinuman na walang inihaing CW na petisyon sa kanila sa petsang iyon, ay hindi na kailanman makataong ipakikilala sa CNMI. Ang petisyon upang isponsoran ang mga

See Q&A on next page

manggagawang ito bilang CW-1 nonimmigrant ay kinakailangang matatakan hindi lalagpas sa Nob. 28,2011 (halimbawa, sa katapusan ng unang araw ng negosyo pagkatapos ng Linggo, Nob, 27, 2011, lokal na oras ng CNMI).

Ang mga manggagawang hindi kailanman legal na magpakita sa CNMI ay kinakailangang umalis sa CNMI bago ang kanilang mga employer ay maghain ng petisyon. Hindi sila makapapasok muli sa CNMI at makapagpapatuloy sa pagtatrabaho hanggang ang petisyon ay maigawad at makakuha ng CW visa sa U.S. Konsulado sa labas ng bansa.

Q12. Maaari bang magpatuloy ang employer na bigyan ng trabaho ang manggagawa sa ilalim ng "umbrella permit" o iba pang CNMI na awtorisasyong paggawa pagkatapos ng Nob. 27, 2011, kung ang petisyon para sa katayuang CW ay nakabinbin?

A12. Oo. Ang legal na paglitaw ng manggagawa ay base sa petsa ng paghahain ng petisyon, kaya kung ang employer ay naghain ng petisyon na hindi lalagpas sa Nob. 27,2011, ang manggagawa ay mananatiling karapat-dapat sa pagtanggap ng katayuang CW. Ituturing ng USCIS pagtatak ng petisyon sa Nob. 28,2011, na inihain noong Nob. 27,2011 (na ipinaliwanag bilang sagot sa Tanong 11). Kapag ang employer ay nag-aplay para sa katuyuang CW ng manggagawa siya ay kasalukuyang nagtatrabaho sa CNMI sa ilalim ng umbrella permit o iba pang awtorisasyon ng CNMI na mawawalan ng bisa sa Nob. 27,2011, ang empleyado ay maaaring legal na magpatuloy sa pagbibigay ng trabaho sa manggagawa hanggang ang desisyon sa aplikasyon ay maisagawa. Kapag ang petisyon ay naigawad, ang manggagawa ay tatanggap ng katayuang CW at maaaring magpatuloy bilang may trabaho. Kapag ang petisyon ay tinanggihan, ang awtorisasyon sa paggawa ay mahihinto sa oras na iyon.

Q13. Ano ang dapat gawin ng employer upang maghain ng petisyon para sa banyagang manggagawa?

A13. Bago maghain ang employer ng petisyon para sa banyagang manggagawa, ang employer ay kinakailangang isaalang-alang ang mga manggagawang taga-U.S. para sa posisyon na inihain ng manggagawang CW.

Upang petisyunin ang banyagang manggagawa, ang employer ay kinakailangang:

- Maghain ng Porm I-129CW, petisyon para sa CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Worker;
- Mag-alok ng mga termino at mga kondisyon sa pagtatrabaho na alinsunod sa uri ng trabaho, aktibidad at industriya sa DNMi;
- Mga papel na sumusuporta sa ebidensiyang nagpapatunay na ang impormasyon na ibinigay tungkol sa employer, posisyon sa trabaho at prospektibong manggagawa ay wasto at natutupad ang karapat-dapat na mga kailangan; at
- Magsumite ng wastong bayad sa paglalahad.

Q14. Kinakailangan bang maghain ang employer ng magkabukod na Porm I-129CW para sa bawat transisyonal na manggagawa?

A14. Hindi. Ang employer ay maaaring maghain ng isang petisyon sa maraming manggagawa, ganun din sa lahat ng manggagawa na:

- Magtatrabaho sa magkaparehong kategorya ng trabaho;
- Magtatrabaho sa magkaparehong tagal ng pahanon;
- Magtatrabaho sa magkaparehong lugar; at
- Humihiling ng parehong aksyon sa Bahagi 2 ng petisyon (Pagpapalit ng katayuan, Pagpapahaba ng Katayuan, atbp.).

Q15. Magkano ang bayad sa paghahain na kaugnay ng Porm I-129CW?

A15. Kung ikaw ay employer sa CNMI na naghahanap upang magisponsor sa karapat-dapat na indibidwal bilang CNMI-Only Transitional Worker, maaaring tingnan ang kaugnay na bayad sa paghahain sa ibaba:

Kung ikaw

Ang pagpepetisyon para sa isa o higit pang manggagawa na legal na nagtatrabaho sa CNMI na may katayuang pederal na nonimmigrant (hal., F-1 or H-1B)...

Kinakailangan mo na

Magsumite ng Porm I-129CW at $325 na bayad sa aplikasyon...

at

Magsumite ng ipinatutupad na bayad sa CNMI na pananalaping pang-edukasyon na $150 bayad sa bawat makikinabang. Huwag magsumite ng bayad sa biometriks.

Kung ikaw

Nagpepetisyon ng isa o higit pang manggagawa na legal na nagtatrabaho sa CNMI na may permisong CNMI o ginawaran ng Parol ng USCIS o CBP(maliban bilang bisita para sa pagnenegosyo o pagsasaya mula sa Rusya at China)...

Kinakailangan mo na

Magsumite ng Porm I-129CW at $325 na bayad sa aplikasyon...

at

Magsumite ng ipinatutupad na bayad sa CNMI na pananalaping pang-edukasyon na $150 bayad sa bawat makikinabang. Kahit ikaw o ang manggagawa ay kinakailangan din magsumite ng bayad sa$85 biometriks kung ikaw ay humihiling ng Gawad sa Katayuan sa CNMI.*

Kung ikaw

Ang pagpepetisyon sa isa o higit pang manggagawa na humihiling ng consular na pagpoproseso sa labas ng bansa...

Kinakailangan mo na

Magsumite ng Porm I-129CW at $325 na bayad sa aplikasyon...

at

Magsumite ng ipinatutupad na bayad sa pananalaping pang-edukasyon na $150 bayad ng bawat makikinabang. Huwag magsumite ng bayad sa biometriks. Ang bayad sa biometriks ay maaaring kinakailangan sa Kagawaran ng Estado kung ang manggagawa ay nag-aaplay para sa kanyang visa palabas ng bansa.

Kung ikaw

Ay humihiling ng ekstensiyon ng katayuan para sa CW nonimmigrant na manggagawa...

Kinakailangan mo na

Magsumite ng Porm I-129CW at $325 na bayad sa aplikasyon...

at

Magsumite ng ipinatutupad na bayad sa pananalaping pang-edukasyon na $150 bayad ng bawat makikinabang.

*Tandaan lamang na ang mga manggagawang nagbabalak na maglakbay sa labas ng bansa sa kasalukuyan ay maaaring humiling ng prosesong consular sa kanilang visa sa labas ng bansa. Ang paghiling para sa konsular na proseso, kung aprobahan, ay hindi igagawad ang katayuan sa makikinabang. Gayunpaman, ito ay mapoproseso ng mas mabilis, na hindi na kinakailangan ng koleksyon ng impormasyong biometriks ng makikinabang at pag-fingerprint. Dagdag dito, ang kahilingan para sa konsular na pagproseso ay hindi kinakailangan nang kabayaran ang $85 sa USCIS. Ang mga manggagawang naglalayag palabas ng bansa ay mangagailangan ng balidong visa upang makapasok muli sa CNMI, ginawaran man sila o hindi ng katayuan sa CNMI.

Q16. Maaari bang mabawasan ang bayad sa maghahain?

A16. Ang Porm I-129CW at bayad sa magsusumite ng biometriks ay maaaring mabawasan sa di-karaniwang mga sitwasyon kung saan ang ipinakikita ng employer na walang kakayahan sa pagbabayad ng kabayaran sa paghahain ngunit kaya pa rin na magbayad ng sahod ng empleyado. Upang humiling ng kabawasan sa pagbabayad kinakailangan mong magsumite ng Porm I-912, o pasulat na kahilingan para sa pagbabawas sa bayad. Ang $150 na bayad sa CNMI na pananalaping pang-edukasyon ay hindi maaaring bawasin.

Para sa higit na gabay tungkol sa pag-aaplay para sa pagbabawas ng pagbabayad, tingnan ang www.uscis.gov/feewaiver.

Q17. Anong ebidensiya ang dapat ibigay ng employer sa petisyon kabilang ang Porm I-129CW?

A17. Kinakailangan ng employer na kumpletuhin ang porm ng buo, kabilang ang mga pagpapatunay na kinakailangan upang makapagtatag ng karapatan. Kinakailangan ng employer na magsumite ng ebidensiya na anumang mayroon, upang sumuporta sa mga elemento sa pagpapatunay. Halimbawa, upang suportahan ang pagpapatunay na walang mga kwalipikadong manggagawa sa U.S. na mayroon upang punan ang posisyon, ang empleyado ay maaaring magsumite ng ebidensiya na ang bakanteng trabaho ay naipaskil sa pang araw-araw na dyaryo sa nais ng patalastas o sa website ng bakanteng trabaho tulad ng mga pinatatakbo ng Kagawaran ng Paggawa at pribadong opisina sa pagrerekrut ng CNMI.

Q18. Maaari bang pagpetisyon ang employer para sa mga manggagawa kung ang lisensya ng negosyo ng employer ay suspendido o tinanggihan ng pamahalaan ng CNMI o kung ang lisensya ay hindi nabagong muli para sa ilang mga kadahilanan?

A18. Upang makapagpetisyon ng mga manggagawang CW, ang employer ay kinakailangang magnegosyo sa CNMI sa lehitimong pag-uugali sa pagnenegosyo. Nangangahulugan ito na dapat niyang masunod ang mga legal na kinakailangan upang makapagnegosyo sa CNMI. Sa higit pang saklaw, ang employer ay kinakailangang magbigay ng ebidensiya sa pagsunod sa lahat ng dapat na kinakailangang lisensya. Kung ang lisensyang pangnegosyo o pangtrabaho ay sinuspende, tinanggihan o hindi nabagong muli, ang employer ay kinakailangang magsumite ng pagsisiwalat at lubusang paliwanag sa lahat ng mga katotohanan nang pasulat kasama ang kaniyang petisyon. Isasaalang-alang ng USCIS ang impormasyong ito sa iba't ibang uri ng kaso kung saan ang employer at/o ang banyagang mga mangggawa ay karapat-dapat upang humiling ng klasipikasyong CW. Bilang karagdagan, kapag ang banyagang manggagawa ay kinakailangan ng lisensyang pangtrabaho, ang employer ay kinakailangang magbigay ng ebidensya ng naturang paglilisensiya.

Q19. Maaari ba na ang empleyado na tinutulan ng pamahalaan ng CNMI sa pagbibigay ng trabaho sa mga banyagang manggagawa ay magpetisyon sa mga CW na manggagawa/

A19. Ang paglagay sa employer sa ""barred employer list" ng CNMI ay hindi kwalipikado ang employer sa pagpepetisyon sa mga banyagang manggagawang CW. Gayunpaman, ang palalagay sa talaang ito ay hindi isisiwalat at lubusang ipaliliwanag sa petisyon, para sa wastong pagsasaalang-alang ng USCIS sa karapatan para sa mga nakitang benepisyo.

Q20. May mga kategorya bang pang-okopisyunal na hindi kabilang sa karapat-dapat sa katuyuang CW?

A20. Wala.

Q21. Upang maging karapat-dapat sa katayuang CW, ang manggagawa ay dapat na hindi karapat-dapat sa ibang employment-based na mga kategoryang nonimmigrant sa ilalim ng INA. Nangangahulugan ba ito na ang employer ay dapat mag-aplay para sa ibang mga kategoryang iyon at tanggihan, bago ang pagpepetisyon para sa katayuang CW ng manggagawa?

A21. Hindi. Hindi kinakailangan ng mga employer na ipakita na sila ay hindi tagumpay sa pag-aaplay sa anumang klasipikasyong nonimmigrant para sa manggagawa. Dapat patunayan ng mga empleyado na ang uri ng posisyon ay hindi pansamantala o panapanahon (dahil maari nilang gamitin ang klasipikasyong H-2B nonimmigrant upang kumuha ng pansamantala o panapanahong mga manggagawa), at hindi sila maniniwala na ang manggagawa ay kwalipikado para sa anumang klasipikasyon ng manggagawang nonimmigrant. Ang mga empleyadong nabigo sa pag-aaplay sa ibang klasipikasyon ng nonimmigrant para sa manggagawa ay dapat magbigay ng ebidensiya upang sumuporta sa pagpapatunay.

Q22. Ano'ng proseso sa pag-apila kapag ang petisyon ay tinanggihan?

A22. Ang administratibong proseso sa pag-apila para sa Porm I-129CW ay alinsunod sa ibang mga klasipikasyong nonimmigrant. Upang umapila sa pagtanggi sa petisyong CW-1, ang employer na nagpepetison sa CNMI ay kinakailangang mabigay ng Porm I-290B, Babala ng Appeal o Mosyon. Ang nagpepetisyong employer lamang, hindi ang empleyado, ang maaaring umapila sa pangtanggi. Ang aplikasyon sa pagpapalit ng katayuan o pagpapahaba ng katayuan ay hindi maaaring iapila kapag ito ay tinanggihan.

Q23. Maaari ba na ang mga probadong indibidwal ay magpetisyon para sa mga banyagang manggagawa na nagtatrabaho upang magbigay ng pangdomestikong pambahay na hanap-buhay?

A23. Mga kinatawan lamang na nagnenegosyo, na kinilala sa patakaran ng transisyonal na manggagawa ang maaaring magpetisyon sa mga CW na manggagawa. Ang mga pribadong pangangatulong ay karaniwang hindi kinikilala.

MGA TANONG SA MGA MANGGAGAWA

Q24. Ano ang dapat gawin ng manggagawa sa CNMI upang makakuha ng katayuang CW-1?

A24. Ang employer lamang ang maaaring maghain ng petisyon para sa manggagawa upang makakuha ng katayuang CW-1. Ang indibidwal ay dapat isponsoran ng employer at dapat matugunan ang mga pangunahing kinakailangan upang maging karapat-dapat. Ang indibidwal ay maaaring karapat-dapat sa klasipikasyong CW-1 nonimmigrant kung siya ay:

- Ang mga hindi karapat-dapat para sa ibang nonimmigrant o immigrant na katayuan sa ilalim ng batas ng U.S.;
- Ay makapapasok o mananatili sa CNMI upang magtrabaho sa kategoryang panghanap-buhay na inilaan bilang kinakailangang banyagang manggagawa upang makatustos sa residenteng lakas-paggawa;
- Ay ang makikinabang sa petisyon na inihain ng lehitimong employer na nagnenegosyo sa CNMI;
- Ay hindi gumaganap sa Estados Unidos, maliban sa CNMI;
- Ay legal na gaganap sa CNMI, kung magtatrabaho sa CNMI; at
- Ay katanggap-tanggap sa Estados Unidos o ginawaran ng anumang kinakailangang waiver sa dahilang di-pagtanggap.

Q25. Paano makakukuha ng visa ang hindi karapat-dapat na indibidwal ng CW-1 o CW-2 mula sa labas ng CNMI?

A25. Sa oras na ang I-129CW na inihain sa USCIS ng employer ay naaprobahan, ang karapat-dapat na indibidwal na nag-aaplay mula sa labas ng CNMI ay dapat makipag-ugnayan sa U.S. Department of State upang magaplay para sa CW-1 or CW-2 visa base sa inaprobahang petisyon ng employer. Ang klasipikasyong CW-2 ay limitado sa mga kamag-anak ng nagmamay-ari ng katayuang CW-1 (mga asawa at walang asawang mga anak na may taong 18 pababa).

Q26. Maari bang magtrabaho ang indibidwal na may CW visa saan man sa Estados Unidos?

A26. Hindi. Ang indibidwal na may katayuang CW-1 ay makapagtatrabaho lamang sa CNMI sa petisyon ng employer na inihain at inaprobahang petisyon. Ang employer ay dapat maghain ng bagong I-129CW petisyon kung may anumang material na pagbabago sa termino at kondisyon sa pagtatrabaho. Ang katayuang CW ay hindi nagpapahintulot sa indibidwal upang magtrabaho sa anumang estado o teritoryo ng Estados Unidos, kabilang ang karatig teritoryo ng Guam. Ang mga indibidwal na may katayuang CW-2 ay hindi maaaring magtrabaho sa CNMI o sa alinmang bahagi o teritoryo ng Estados Unidos.

Q27. Maaari bang magpalit ng employer ang indibidwal na may katayuang CW-1?

A27. Oo, ngunit ang employer ay dapat maghain ng Porm I-129CW na petisyon sa USCIS. Ang manggagawa ay maaaring magsimulang magtrabaho para sa bagong empleyado sa oras na ang employer ay maghain ng petisyon. Ito ay dapat na walang panlilinlang na Porm I-129CW na petisyon para sa pagbabago ng employer, ang ibig sabihin nito ay ang petisyon ay inihain para sa indibidwal na may katayuang CW-1 sa oras ng pagsusumite, upang maging karapat-dapat sa alok na trabaho kung saan ang indibidwal ay makatutugon sa mga kwalipikasyon. Kapag ang petisyon ay tinanggihan, ang awtorisasyon sa pagtatrabaho ay mahihinto.

Q28. Hanggang kailan balido ay katayuang CW?

A28. Ang katayuang CW ay igagawad para sa isang taon. Ang employer ay maaring humiling ng ekstensiyon ng katayuan sa pamamagitan ng paghahain ng bagong petisyong I-129CW. Ang katayuang CW-2 ng kamag-anak ay mawawalan ng bisa sa parehong araw ng prinsipal na may katayuang CW-1 at maaaring humaba kapag napahaba ang katayuan ng CW-1 ng prinsipal.

Q29. Mawawala ba ang katayuan ng indibidwal na may katayuang CW kapag ito ay natanggal sa trabaho?

A29. Oo, ang banyagang manggagawa na may CW nonimmigrant na katayuan ay mawawala ang katayuan kapag siya ay lumabag sa anumang termino o kondisyon na kabilang sa katayuang CW. Kapag ang paglabag ay nagdulot lamang sa pagkakatanggal niya sa trabaho, gayunpaman, ang manggagawa ay hindi maituturing na nilabag ang kanyang katayuan, kung sa loob ng 30 araw mula sa petsa ng pangtanggal, siya ay kumuha ng bagong trabaho at ang employer ay naghain ng petisyong para sa kanya; Ngunit ito'y kapag ang banyagang manggagawa lamang ang lumabag sa anumang termino o kondisyon ng katayuang CW.

Kaya, kapag nakakita ng bagong trabaho, ang bagong employer ay dapat maghain ng petisyon para sa banyagang manggagawa bago matapos ang 30 araw na palugit upang ang banyagang manggagawa ay manatiling legal na gumaganap sa CNMI. Para sa kasagutan sa

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Q&A

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Tanong 27, ang banyagang manggagawa ay maaari lamang magsimulang magtrabaho sa bagong empleyado pagkatapos na ang employer ay maghain ng petisyon. Kapag ang bagong petisyon ay hindi naisumite sa loob ng 30 araw, ang banyagang manggagawa ay dapat umalis sa CNMI at ang manggagawa ay ituturing na walang bisa ang katayuan sa petsa ng pagtanggal sa CW-1 na trabaho. Anumang petisyon ang ihain para sa manggagawa pagkatapos ng 30 araw na palugit ay nangangailangan ng aprobadong petisyon at ang CW visa ay ibinigay ng Konsulado sa labas ng CNMI bago makabalik ang banyagang manggagawa at magsimula ng bagong trabaho sa CNMI.

Q30. Ako ay banyagang manggagawa at nagtatrabaho at namumuhay ng legal sa CNMI, at ang aking employer ay handang mag-isponsor sa akin para sa CW visa. Ano ang mga hakbang na kailangan ko upang makakuha ng katayuang CW sa CNMI?

A30. Ang mga sumusunod na hakbang ay kailangang gawin sa ganitong sitwasyon.

Hakbang 1: Ang iyong employer ay kinakailangang magsumite ng sumusunod na mga porm upang isponsoran ka:

■ Ang Porm na I-129CW;

■ Ang bayad sa aplikasyon na $325;

■ Ang ipinatutupad na bayad sa edukasyon $150; at

■ mga ebidensiyang susuporta na nagpapatibay na ang mga impormasyon na ibinigay tungkol sa iyo, ang iyong employer at ang posisyon sa trabaho ay wasto at natugunan ang dapat na kinakailangan.

Sinuman sa iyo o sa iyong employer ay dapat magbigay ng bayad sa biometriks na $85 kasama ang petisyon (maliban kung ikaw ay humihiling ng konsular na pagpoproseso). Matapos magsumite ang employer ng Porm I-129CW, ang USCIS ay makikipag-ugnayan sa iyo tungkol sa kung kinakailangan mong magpakita upang ibigay ang iyong fingerprints at larawan sa USCIS Application Support Center sa TSL Plaza sa Saipan.

Hakbang 2: Kapag ang iyong Porm I-129CW ay naaprobahan, ang USCIS ay magpapadala ng pahintulot na babala sa iyong employer. Tiyakin na bibigyan ka ng iyong employer ng kopya ng pahintulot na babala. Ang pahintulot na babala at nakadikit na Porm I-94 ay magsasabi na ang iyong katayuan sa CNMI ay nailipat sa CW-1. Ang pahintulot na babala ay magsasabi sa iyo kung kailangan mong pumunta sa U.S. Embassy o Konsulado upang ilakad and iyong CW-1 visa.

Q31. Paano makapag-aaplay ang aking mga kamag-anak upang makatanggap ng katayung CW?

A.31. Bilang pagbabago ng aplikasyon ng iyong employer para makakuha ng katayuang CW-1, ang iyong mga kamag-anak na legal na pumunta sa CNMI ay maaaring mag-aplay ng katayuang CW-2. Ang mga aplikanteng para sa CW-2 ay dapat magsumite ng:

■ Bayad sa aplikasyon na $290;

■ $85 na kabayaran sa serbisyong biometriks kung kinakailangan;

■ Kopya ng iyong pahintulot na babala at Porm I-94 na nagdudumento sa pagtanggap sa CNMI sa klasipikasyong CW-1 (kung mayroon); at

■ Aplikasyon upang Baguhin o Pahabain ang Katayuan, Porm I-539.

Ang mga kamag-anak ay hindi na kinakailangang magsumite ng Porm I-539, depende kung paano ang pangunahing katayuang CW-1 ay prinoseso.

Kung

Ikaw ay hinihiling na magproseso sa konsular ng iyong katayuan sa CW-1 sa Konsulada ng U.S. o Embahada sa labas ng bansa...

gayon

Ang iyong mga kamag-anak ay maaari din na magproseso sa konsular ng kanilang katayuang CW-2. Hindi na kailangan ng mga kamag-anak na magsumite ng Porm I-539 kung sila ay naghain ng katayuang CW sa labas ng CNMI.

Kung

Ikaw ay nasa CNMI at ang iyong employer ay naghain ng Porm I-129CW na humihiling ng iyong katayuang CW-1 para saiyo....

gayon

Ang iyong mga kamag-anak ay maaaring magsumite ng Porm I-539 sa pagkakataong iyon o anumang oras habang ang I-129CW ay nakabinbin. Ang I-539 dapat kasama ng karagdagang bayad sa biometriks kung ang kamag-anak ay 4 na taon ang edad o 79 o mas matanda. Gayunpaman, ang Porm I-539 ng iyong mga kamag-anak ay hindi maaprobahan kung ang iyong aplikasyon sa magkuha ng katayuan ay tinanggihan.

Kapag ang Porm Form I-539 ay naaprobahan, ang USCIS ay magpapadala ng pahintulot na babala sa iyong mga kamag-anak bilang patunay sa naaprobahang Porm I-539 kasama ang I-94 bilang patunay sa katayuang CW-2.

Q32. Ang aking mga kamag-anak at ako ay legal na mamalagi sa CNMI hanggang sa Nob. 27,2011. Ang employer ay handang magpetisyon para sa katayuang CW-1 ko. Dapat bang maghain ng petisyon ang employer bago mag-Nob.27, 2011? Kung gayon, ang mga kamag-anak ko ba ay dapat magsumite ng aplikasyon para sa katayuang CW-2 bago mag-Nob. 27,2011?

A32. Upang ikaw at ang iyong mga kamag-anak sa CNMI ay maging karapat-dapat para sa katayuang CW, dapat kayong legal na gumanap sa CNMI sa petsa ng aplikasyon para sa inihaing katayuan sa CW. Para sa iyo (ang prinsipal na manggagawa), iyon ang pagkakataon na ang iyong empoyer ay maghain ng I-129CW na petisyon upang hilingin na ikaw ay gawaran ng katayuang CW-1. Para sa iyong kamag-anak,

ito ang pagkakataon upang sila ay magsumite ng I-539 aplikasyon para makakuha ng katayuang CW-2. Kapag ikaw o ang iyong mga kamag-anak ay may umbrella permit o iba pang awtorisasyon sa pagtatrabaho na mawawalan ng bisa sa Nob. 27,2011, ang mga aplikasyong ito ay DAPAT isumite sa o bago mag-Nob. 27,2011, upang maging karapat-dapat gawaran ng katayuang CW sa CNMI. Ituturing ng USCIS pagtatak ng petisyon sa Nob. 28,2011, na inihain noong Nob. 27, 2011(na ipinaliwanag bilang sagot sa Tanong 11). Ang mga aplikasyon para sa kamag-anak ay hindi na dapat isumite bago igawad ang aplikasyon sa CW-1 ng prinsipal. Ngunit dapat tandaan ng mga kamag-anak na maigawad man o hindi ang aplikasyong CW-1, ang aplikasyon para sa kamag-anak ay dapat punan habang ang kamag-anak ay legal na gumaganap sa CNMI. Bukod dito, ang kamag-anak ay makakukuha lamang ng katayuang CW-2 sa pamamagitan ng aplikasyon ng visa sa Konsulada ng U.S. sa labas ng bansa.

Q33. Sinong mga kamag-anak ang karapat-dapat para sa binagong katayuan na CW-2?

A33. Mga asawa at mga batang anak(mga batang may edad 18 pababa) ay karapat-dapat para sa binagong katayuan na CW-2. Ang mga bata na higit 18 taon ang edad, at mga magulang o kamag-anak, ay hindi karapat-dapat sa katayuang CW-2.

Q34. Ako ay banyagang manggagawa ay nakatira sa labas ng bansa at ang employer ay nasa CNMI ay handang mag-isponsor sa akin. Ano ang mga hakbang na kailangan ko upang makakuha ng CW visa?

A34. Sa sitwasyong ito, ang mga sumusunod na mga hakbang ay dapat gawin:

Hakbang 1: Para ikaw ay makakuha ng CW visa, ang mag-iisponsor na employer ay dapat munang magsumite ng mga sumusunod na dokumento:

■ A Form I-129CW;

■ Ang bayad sa aplikasyon na $325;

■ Ang ipinatutupad na bayad sa edukasyon $150; at

■ mga suportang dokumento na nagpapatunay na ang impormasyong ibinigay tungkol sa iyo, sa iyong employer at posisyon sa trabaho ay wasto at natutugunan ang mga dapat na kinakailangan.

Hakbang 2: Kapag naaprobahan ang petisyon, ang USCIS ay magpapadala ng pahintulot na babala sa iyong employer. Ang iyong employer ay dapat magpadala sa iyo ng orihinal na kopya ng pahintulot na babala sa tirahan mo sa ibang bansa.

Pagkatapos mong matanggap ang pahintulot na babala, kinakailangan mong magtakda ng nonimmigrant visa na panayam sa Konsulada O Embahada ng U.S. na malapit sa iyo. Ang iyong mga kamag-anak ay maaari ding mag-aplay para sa mga visa na CW-2 sa Karagawan ng Estado sa U.S. at hindi na kinakailangang magsumite ng Porm I-129CW o Porm I-539. Ang Kagawaran ng Estado ay may magkabukod na aplikasyon at kinakailangang kabayaran para sa aplikasyon ng visa.

Ikaw at ang iyong mga kamag-anak ay dapat walang CW-1 o CW-2 na katayuan hanggang ikaw ay makakuha ng CW visa mula sa Kagawaran ng Estado sa U.S. at tanggapin sa CNMI. Ang pahintulot sa Porm I-129CW sa konsular na pagproseso ay magpapahintulot sa klasipikasyon lamang at hindi naggagawad sa iyo ng karagdagang katayuan sa CNMI.

Q35. Kung ako ay nagtatrabaho sa aking employer na nag-isponsor sa akin ng katayuang CW-1 sa CNMI, at ang aking umbrella permit ay mawawalan na bisa sa Nob. 27, 2011, maaari ba akong magpatuloy sa pagtatrabaho hanggang madesisyunan ang petisyon ko?

A35. Oo. Kapag ikaw ay legal na may trabaho sa CNMi sa ilalim ng awtorisadong gawad na trabaho ng CNMI na mawawalan ng bisa sa Nob.27,2011, at ang iyong employer ay naghain ng petisyong CW para sa iyo bago o sa Nob. 28,2011, ikaw ay may pahintulot na ipagpatuloy ang iyong pagtatrabaho hanggang ang USCIS ay makapagpasya sa petisyon.

Q36. Ano ang dapat isumite sa Kagawaran ng Estado para sa CW na nonimmigrant visa?

A36. Hinihiling ng Kagawaran ng Estado na ang lahat ng mga aplikante sa nonimmigrant visa ay kumpletuhin ang Porm DS-160, Ang aplikasyon para sa Nonimmigrant Visa kalakip ang kaukulang bayad. Inaanyayahan ng Kagawaran ng Estado ang mga pamilya na magsumite ng sabay-sabay, kahit na ang mga miyembro ay maglalayag ng makakabukod.

Q37. Paano ako makakukuha ng apoyntment para sa panayam sa visa.

A37. Ang bawat Konsulada ng U.S. ay may kaniyang proseso sa paggawa ng apoyntment sa visa. Depende sa Konsulada, maaari kang tumawag o humingi ng apoyntment online. Lahat ng bayarin ay dapat bayaran bago humingi ng apoyntment.

Ang website ng Kagawaran ng Estado, www.usembassy.gov, ay mas maraming impormasyon tungkol sa mga panayam sa nonimmigrant visa. Ang website ay may impormasyon din tungkol sa inaasahang oras ng paghihintay para sa mga panayam sa nonimmigrant visa at bawat Konsulada ng U.S. sa ibayong dagat. Dapat kang magdala ng pahintulot na babala sa petisyon at Porm DS-160 sa apoyntment.

Q38. Paano kung ako ay nagtatrabaho sa higit pa sa isang employer?

A38. Kung ikaw ay nagtatrabaho sa higit pa sa isang employer, bawat employer ay dapat magsumite ng magkabukod na Porm ng I-129CW kasama ang USCIS.

Q39. Makapagtatrabaho ba ang makikinabang na may katayuang CW-2?

A39. Hindi. Ang katayuang CW-2 ay hindi nagpapahintulot sa pagtatrabaho.

Q40. Ako at ang aking asawa ay parehong nagtatrabaho. Kung ang aking asawa ay hindi makapagtatrabaho bilang CW-2 nonimmigrant, paano siya makapagpapatuloy sa pagtatrabaho kapag natanggap ko ang katayuang CW-1?

A40. Ang iyong mga naturang employer ay maaaring magpetisyon sa bawat-isa sa inyo upang makakuha ng katayuang CW-1.

Q41. Maaari ba na ang isang indibidwal na may CW visa ay mag-aplay para sa ibang klasipikasyon ng visa?

A41. Oo. Sa panahon ng transisyon, ang mga transisyunal na manggagawa at ang kanilang mga kamag-anak ay maaaring mag-aplay para sa iba pang INA nonimmigrant o immigrant visa na klasipikasyon.

Q42. Kinakailangan ba na mag-aplay ng CW visa kapag ang pansamantalang manggagawa ay may permisong CNMI?

A42. Oo. Ang employer ay dapat mag-aplay ng CW visa kapag ang employer ay nais na ipagpatuloy ang pagbibigay ng trabaho sa manggagawa pagkatapos ng pagkawala ng bisa ng permiso ng CNMI ng manggagawa, maliban kung ang ibang katuyuan sa awtorisadong trabaho ay makukuha sa ilalim ng pederal na imigrasyong batas. Ang mga manggagawa ay maaaring manatili sa CNMI hanggang ang kanilang permiso at mawalan ng bisa, o hanggang Nob. 27, 2011 alinmang petsa ang mauna. Employer lamang ang maaaring magpasya kung pepetisyunin ang manggagawa upang makakuha ng klasipikasyong CW o katayuan.

Kapag ang manggagawa ay may umbrella permit na may bisa and kailangan na maglakbay palabas ng CNMI, kailangan niya ng U.S. visa upang bumalik. Kapag ang employer ay nais makakuha ng katayuang CW sa CNMI para sa empleyado na may umbrella permit, ang petisyon ay dapat maisumite sa petsa o bago mag-Nob. 28,2011. Kung hindi, ang manggagawa ay dapat umalis sa CNMI at kumuha ng CW visa sa Konsulada ng U.S. o Embahada sa labas ng bansa upang matanggap sa CNMI sa katayuang CW.

Q43. Ano ang mangyayari sa mga manggagawang CW-1 transisyonal at sa kanilang mga kamag-anak pagkatapos ng panahon ng transisyon?

A43. Pagkatapos ng panahon ng transisyon, Dis. 31, 2014, ang klasipikasyong CW ay hihinto (maliban kung ang programa ng transisyonal na manggagawa ay pahabain ng Kalihim ng Paggawa sa U.S.). Ang mga transisyonal na manggagawa na may katayuang CW ay kinakailangang kumuha ng katayuang nonimmigrant o immigrant sa ilalim ng INA bago ang petsang ito kung nais nilang manatili ng legal sa CNMI.

MGA KATANUNGAN TUNGKOL SA PAGLALAKBAY

Q44. Bilang nagmamay-ari ng CW-1 o CW-2 na katayuan, ano ang dapat kong gawin upang makapaglakbay?

A44. Ang mga may katayuang CW ay dapat kumuha ng CW-1 o CW-2 na visa mula sa Kagawaran ng Estado sa U.S. sa labas ng bansa kung nais nila na maglakbay palabas ng bansa at pumasok muli sa CNMI. Ang Kagawaran ng Estado ay may magkabukod na aplikasyon at kinakailangang kabayaran para sa aplikasyon ng visa. Para sa higit pang impormasyon sa paglalakbay sa labas ng CNMI, maaaring tingnan ang Department of State website.

Q45. Maaari bang maglakbay ang mga manggagawa na may paunang parol upang makapaglakbay sa ibang bansa at makapagtrabaho na may awtorisadong umbrella permit sa oras ng kanilang pagbabalik sa CNMI?

A45. Oo. Ang mga manggagawa na may balidong umbrella permit at balidong dokumento sa paglalakbay ay maaaring magpatuloy sa paglalakbay at bumalik ng legal sa trabaho sa CNMI kung sila ay nag-aplay at ginawaran ng paunang parol.

Ginamit ng USCIS ang paunang parol at parol sa pagtatalaga bilang pansamantalang sukatan dahil ang kasipikasyong walang visa sa ilalim ng INA ay pinapayagan ang lehitimong mga manggagawa na ipagpatuloy ang paglalakbay at bumalik sa CNMI matapos ang pandaigdig na paglalakbay o sa loob ng Estados Unidos nang walang visa. Ang paunang parol ay hindi normal na itinuturing para sa mga indibidwal nakatanggap ng katayuang CW sa CNMI, at makatatanggap ng visa sa labas ng bansa para sa kanilang pagbabalik sa CNMI.

Q46. Makababalik ba ang mga indibidwal na may katayuang CW mula sa paglalakbay sa labas ng CNMI?

A46. Ang CW-1 o CW-2 na nonimmigrant ay maaaring umalis sa CNMI, ngunit siya ay dapat may tamang visa upang makapasok muli sa CNMI. Ang manggagawang CW ay dapat mag-aplay para sa CW visa sa Embahada or Konsulada ng U.S. sa labas ng bansa bago maghanap ng pagtanggap muli sa CNMI. Kapag ang CW-1 o CW-2 na katayuan ay natanggap habang nasa CNMI, ang nonimmigrant ay bibigyan ng Porm I-94 Talaan ng Paglabas-Pagpasok, bilang dokumentasyon ng katayuang CW.

Q47. Ang katayuang CW ba ay balido sa kahit anong bahagi ng Estados Unidos maliban sa CNMI?

A.47. Hindi, ang katayuang CW ay limitado sa CNMI. Ang mga indibidwal na may CW status na naglalakbay o may balak maglakbay, nang walang natatanggap na pahintulot, sa anumang bahagi ng Estados Unidos kabilang ang Guam ay lumabag sa kanilang katayuang CW at dapat pauwiin mula sa Estados Unidos patungo sa kanilang bansang pinanggalingan. Gayunpaman, ang huling patakaran ay nagbibiday ng isang mahalagang eksepsiyon; Maaaring tingnan ang Tanong 48 para sa higit pang paglilinaw.

Q48. Maaari ba na ang mga indibidwal na may katayuang CW visa, o may CW visa, ay dumaan sa paliparan ng Guam?

A48. Ang mga indibwal na naniniirahan sa Pilipinas ay maaaring maglakbay sa pagitan ng CNI at ng Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng paliparan ng Guam sa ilalim ng mga sumusunod na kondisyon:

■ Papalabas mula sa CNMI patungo sa Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng Guam: Ang indibidwal ay nasa balidong katayuang CW at naglalakbay sa direktang interinaryo kasama ang stopover ng paglipad o koneksiyon sa Guam nang hindi hihigit sa walong oras, at ang indibidwal ay mananatili sa paliparan ng Guam habang naglalakbay.

■ Paglabas mula sa Pilipinas patungong CNMi sa pamamagitan ng Guam Ang indibidwal ay may balidong CW visa ay naglalakbay sa direktang itirenaryo masama ang stopover ng paglipad o koneksiyon sa Guam nang hindi hihigit sa walong oras, at mananatili sa paliparan ng Guam habang naglalakbay.

Ang ibang mga indibidwal sa katayuang CW o may CW visa ay hindi makapaglalakbay sa o mula sa banyagang destinasyon na may stopover o koneksyon sa pamamagitan ng Guam.

Source: USCIS

Business

Cut taxes, Obama tells Congress in $450B jobs plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attacking a deepening jobs crisis, President Barack Obama challenged a reluctant Congress Thursday night to urgently pass a larger-than-expected $450 billion plan to "jolt an economy that has stalled." He urged lawmakers to slash Social Security taxes for tens of millions of Americans and for almost every business to encourage hiring.

"Stop the political circus," an animated Obama told a joint session of Congress in a nationally televised speech. Over and over he implored lawmakers to "pass this jobs bill."

Open to discussion but making no promises, Republican House Speaker John Boehner said Obama's ideas would be considered but the president should give heed to Republicans' as well. "It's my hope that we can work together," he said.

In announcing a plan heavy on the tax cuts that Republicans traditionally love, Obama sought to achieve multiple goals: offer a plan that could actually get through a deeply divided Congress, speed hiring in a nation where 14 million are out of work, shore up public confidence in his leadership and put Republicans on the spot to take action.

The fate of economy will define Obama's re-election bid, but he sought to dismiss that element as political fodder that means nothing to hurting Americans.

Obama never estimated how many jobs would be created by his plan, which also includes new federal spending for construction, hiring and an extension of jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed. Despite his promise that it would all be paid for, he has not yet released the details on how.

His message was unmistakable to the point of repetition, as he told Congress more than 15 times in one way or another to act quickly. That was meant as direct challenge by a Democratic president to the Republicans running the House to get behind his plan, especially on tax cuts, or be tarred as standing in the way.

AP

President Barack Obama delivers a speech to a joint session of Congress at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011.

The urgency of the jobs crisis is as pronounced as it's been since the early days of Obama's term. Employers added zero jobs last month. A whopping number of Americans—about eight in 10—think the country is headed in the wrong direction and Obama's approval ratings are on the decline.

In the House chamber, Obama received a warm response but then the usual political pattern took hold, Republicans often sitting in silence on the applause lines that had Democrats roaring. Boehner had chummy moments with Vice President Joe Biden at his side before the speech but was somber over Obama's shoulder as the president spoke.

"The people of this country work hard to meet their responsibilities. The question tonight is whether we'll meet ours," Obama said. "The question is whether, in the face of an ongoing national crisis, we can stop the political circus and actually do something to help the economy."

The newest and boldest element of Obama's plan would cut the Social Security payroll tax both for tens of millions of workers and for employers, too.

For individuals, that tax has been shaved from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent for this year but is to go back up again without action by Congress. Obama wants to deepen the cut to 3.1 percent for workers.

Obama would also apply the payroll tax cut to employers, halving their taxes to 3.1 percent on their first $5 million in payroll. Businesses that hire new workers or give raises to those they already employ would get an even bigger benefit: On payroll increases up to $50 million they would pay no Social Security tax.

Obama proposed spending to fix schools and roads, hire local teachers and police and extend unemployment benefits. He proposed a tax credit for businesses that hire people out of work for six months or longer, plus other tax relief aimed as snaring bipartisan support in a time of divided government.

The White House put the price tag of Obama's plan at $447 billion, with about $253 billion in tax cuts and $194 billion in federal spending.

Obama's jobs plan

A summary of the job creation plan President Barack Obama announced Thursday to a joint session of Congress:

	Cost in billions
Small businesses	
Cut employer payroll taxes in half; more tax cuts for new jobs, wage increases	$65
Take immediate deductions on investments, new equipment	$5
Jobs, infrastructure	
Prevent teacher, first responder layoffs	$35
Modernize 35,000 schools	$30
Modernize roads, rails, airports, waterways	$50
Rehabbing vacant property in neighborhoods	$15
Infrastructure bank to create jobs to rehab homes, businesses, communities	$10
Expand access to high-speed wireless	$0*
Unemployed	
Unemployment insurance reform, extension	$49
Employer tax credit for hiring long-term jobless	$8
Expand opportunities for low-income jobless	$5
Workers	
Cut employee payroll tax in half	$175
Total cost	$447

*Costs offset by auctioning unused broadcast bandwidth
Source: White House

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Bernanke offers no hints of further aid to economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Thursday that he's surprised by how cautious consumers remain more than two years since the recession officially ended. But he offered no hints of further steps the Fed might take to try to boost the weak economy.

Bernanke noted that several factors have kept consumers from spending more: from high unemployment and falling home values to still-heavy debt loads and higher gasoline prices.

"Even taking into account the many financial pressures they face, households seem exceptionally cautious," Bernanke said in a speech in Minneapolis to the Economic Club of Minnesota.

Bernanke said that higher prices for gas, cars and other consumer goods were due, in part, to temporary factors, such as supply disruptions stemming from Japan's earthquake and nuclear crisis. As those factors continue to ease, the Fed chief said he expects inflation to moderate in the coming months.

He reiterated that the Fed will consider a range of options at its next policy meeting Sept. 20-21. Some economists have said the Fed must take further steps to drive down long-term interest rates and help the economy avoid another recession.

Bernanke's remarks Thursday were similar to those he made last month in a speech in Jackson Hole, Wyo. As he did in that speech, Bernanke said he supported Congress' push to reduce budget deficits over the long run. But he cautioned against cutting spending excessively while the economy remains so weak.

Congress, he said, "should not ... disregard the fragility of the economic recovery."

The economy barely grew in the first half of the year: It expanded at an annual rate of just 0.7 percent. And the government said last week that employers added zero net jobs in August.

Investors seemed disappointed that Bernanke didn't outline further help the Fed might provide to the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average, which had been down about 20 points when Bernanke began speaking, was off 93 points once he finished.

Some economists suggested that Bernanke might be hesitant to elaborate on the Fed's policy options because of the opposition he faces on its interest-rate setting panel. Three members of the panel dissented at the August meeting, when the Fed said it planned to keep short-term rates at record lows at least until mid-2013 as long as the economy remains weak. It was the first time since 1992 that as many as three panel members had dissented from a policy decision.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil above $89 after Obama announces jobs bill

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $89 a barrel Friday in Asia as investors mulled whether a new U.S. jobs package will help boost crude demand. Benchmark oil for October delivery was up 12 cents to $89.17 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude fell 29 cents to finish at $89.05 on Thursday. In London, Brent crude for October delivery was up 30 cents at $114.85 on the ICE Futures exchange.

China's inflation rate eases to 6.2 pct in August

SHANGHAI (AP)—China's consumer prices moderated in August, helped by slower increases for food, possibly giving the government scope to hold off on further tightening of monetary policies as it confronts a slowing global economy. Consumer prices in the world's second-largest economy rose 6.2 percent over a year earlier, cooling from a 37-month high of 6.5 percent in July, the National Statistics Bureau said Friday.

Judge warns Wash. union to halt illegal tactics

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—Hundreds of Longshore workers overpowered security guards in an aggressive raid on a Washington state grain terminal, officials said Thursday, and the action drew quick rebuke from a federal judge that has tried to curb the union's escalating tactics in an ongoing labor dispute. Workers have been battling for the right to work at the new terminal in Longview. But U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton issued a preliminary injunction to restrict union activity, saying there was no defense for the aggressive tactics used in recent days.

Japan economy shrank more than initial report

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy contracted the April-June quarter at an annual rate of 2.1 percent, worse than the initial estimate, the government said Friday, underlining the damage from the March earthquake disaster.

The Cabinet Office numbers give a more dismal view than the earlier report that had said Japan's gross domestic product, or the measure of a nation's goods and services, contracted at an annual rate of 1.3 percent.

The world's third-largest economy has struggled ever since the March 11 tsunami and earthquake, which left 20,000 people missing or dead, disrupted supply chains among the small-business suppliers in the northeast and forced companies to cut back on power usage because of a nuclear power plant that went into meltdown.

The government said capital expenditure during the three months through June contracted 0.9 percent annual rate. The preliminary report had said it had risen 0.2 percent.

Satoshi Osanai, economist at Daiwa Institute of Research in Tokyo, said the revisions were within expectations, and the consensus view among analysts is that the economy will bounce back in months ahead.

"These negative results reflect the one-time disaster, and so we still think conditions are turning better in a recovery," he said. "This is not going to be like Lehman shock when things kept getting worse."

Government stimulus spending, designed to help along recovery efforts in northeastern Japan, is likely to combine with growth in the private sector, including consumer spending, to show expansion in the next quarter economic data, Osanai said.

The disaster hit at a time when Japan's economy had been stagnating for more than a decade, its public debt ballooning, and the nation had been struggling to find a turnaround.

Exports, corporate investment and consumer spending have all been falling in recent months.

Nation

Lee drenches Northeast; 100K told to leave homes

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP)— The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee poured water on top of the already soaked Northeast on Thursday, closing hundreds of roads and forcing evacuation orders for more than 100,000 people from the Susquehanna River's worst flooding in nearly 40 years.

Most of the evacuations were ordered in and around Wilkes-Barre, where the levee system is just high enough to hold back the river if it crests at the predicted level. Even if the levees hold, 800 to 900 unprotected homes were in danger. If they fail, thousands of buildings could be lost.

"This is a scary situation," said Stephen Bekanich, Luzerne County's emergency management director. He and other officials were confident the levees would work but sought volunteers to lay sandbags on both sides of the river.

In Hummelstown, another Pennsylvania community along the river, Donna MacLeod had to be rescued from her home.

"I'm heartsick," she said. "I know I lost two cars and everything that was in my basement and everything that was on the first floor. But I have my life and I have my dog, so that's good."

Upriver in Binghamton, N.Y., a city of about 45,000, the Susquehanna coursed into the streets and climbed halfway up lampposts at a downtown plaza. Mayor Matt Ryan said it was the city's worst flooding since the flood walls were built in the 1930s and `40s.

Road closures effectively sealed Binghamton off to outside traffic as emergency responders scrambled to evacuate holdouts who didn't heed warnings to leave. Buses and then boats were used to evacuate residents, and National Guard helicopters were on standby.

"It's going to get worse," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said, warning people to leave when they get the order.

Up to nine inches of rain fell in parts of Pennsylvania, and a similar amount fell in Binghamton. Rivers and streams passed or approached flood stage from Maryland to Massachusetts, and experts said more flooding was coming.

The storm compounded the misery for some people still trying to bounce back from Hurricane Irene.

Some of the areas hardest hit by the August storm, such as Vermont, avoided the brunt of the latest bad weather. But in Paterson, N.J., where the Passaic River was rising, about 75 people were still in a shelter because of Irene.

"We just finished cleaning up after the flood from Irene," said Edith Rodriguez, who lived in shelters for three days and spent Wednesday night at a high school outside Schenectady, N.Y., because of Lee. "Now we have to start all over again."

Commuters and other travelers searched for detours as highways and other roads were flooded out, including sections of New York's Interstate 88, which follows the Susquehanna's path. In eastern Pennsylvania, where hundreds of roads were closed, flooding and a rock slide partially closed the Schuylkill Expressway, a major artery into Philadelphia.

Amtrak passenger service on New York's east-west corridor was canceled, as were classes at many colleges and schools across the Northeast.

At least 11 deaths have been blamed on Lee: four in central Pennsylvania, two in northern Virginia and one in Maryland, along with four others killed when it came ashore on the Gulf Coast last week.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett warned of "a public health emergency because sewage treatment plants are underwater and no longer working."

AP

An Upper Marlboro, Md., flooded street, after heavy rain flooded the town onThursday, Sept. 8, 2011. Floods are reported throughout the Washington area, closing a portion of the Beltway in Alexandria, Va. since around 7 p.m.

Outage affects 6 million in Calif., Ariz., Mexico

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A major outage knocked out power in a region of almost 6 million people in the Southwest and Mexico on Thursday, bringing San Diego to a near-standstill and leaving people in the surrounding desert to swelter in late-summer heat.

Two nuclear reactors went offline after losing electricity, but officials said there was no danger to the public or workers.

San Diego bore the brunt of the blackout that started shortly before 4 p.m. PDT., darkening much of the nation's eighth-largest city. All outgoing flights from San Diego's Lindbergh Field were grounded and police stations were forced to use generators to accept emergency calls across the area.

The blackout extended east to Yuma, Ariz. where more than 56,000 people temporarily were left in the dark; power was restored there about five hours later.

Power also was back by on by 10 p.m. in about a dozen cities in San Diego and Orange counties, officials said. Nine of San Diego Gas & Electric Co.'s 115 substations were also back in service.

"We have a ways to go but were starting to see a bit of progress right now," said Mike Niggli, chief operating officer of the utility.

Niggli said he expected a "very stead advance" around 2 a.m. through the middle of the afternoon.

Despite the gains, most of the people in the darkened swath were expected to spend the night without power.

"It feels like you're in an oven and you can't escape," said Rosa Maria Gonzales, a spokeswoman with the Imperial Irrigation District in California's sizzling eastern desert, where heat was well into the triple-digits when the power went out for about 150,000 of its customers.

After the sun went down, residents poured into darkened bars in downtown San Diego, some donning reading lights on their heads like miners. A pair of men carried flaming Tiki torches—usually planted in backyards—to see their way down the pitch black street.

Power out for Calif., Ariz., Mexico
A major power outage knocked out electricity to more than 2 million people in California, Arizona and Mexico, taking two nuclear reactors offline, leaving people sweltering in the late-summer heat and disrupting flights at the San Diego airport. An employee removing a troublesome piece of monitoring equipment near Yuma, Ariz., causes the power outage.
0 50 mi
0 50 km
CALIF.
NEV.
San Onofre nuclear power plant
A transmission line problem near Yuma, Ariz. leaves millions in Calif. without power
Los Angeles
ARIZ.
San Diego
Yuma
Pacific Ocean
SOURCE: ESRI
AP

Details emerge of quiet, troubled IHOP gunman

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)— The man who gunned down 11 people at an IHOP restaurant before taking his own life was the youngest of four brothers, was on long-term medication for mental health problems and once thought of joining the military.

As Nevada's capital city copes with the tragedy, Sheriff Ken Furlong said Thursday investigators are building a profile of 32-year-old Eduardo Sencion in their effort to determine what may have motivated him to storm the restaurant with an assault rifle.

Four victims were killed in Tuesday's attack, including three uniformed Nevada National Guard members. Seven others were wounded, and four remained hospitalized Thursday.

"We are concentrating on the details of his life, which will include his medical records," Furlong told The Associated Press.

Furlong said Sencion had been on medication "for a long period of his life" and was considered to be doing fine by those who knew him.

"We know that he did not dislike the military and at some point had considered joining," Furlong said.

He didn't know if Sencion ever tried to enlist but said his mental health history likely would have precluded his acceptance into the military of his adopted country.

Joe Laub, an attorney who has helped the family with legal concerns in the past, said the Sencions were devastated over the rampage.

"It's almost as if he was a normal person who had a major psychological defect that was triggered by something," Laub said.

Sencion was born in Mexico but was a legal U.S. resident and had a passport, authorities said.

He had at least one previous encounter with the law. He was taken into protective custody by South Lake Tahoe police during a mental health commitment in April 2000. He fought with officers during the incident but was not charged.

Furlong confirmed Sencion had been hospitalized for mental health issues as an adult, but it wasn't immediately clear if that hospitalization was related to the commitment in 2000.

Records show Sencion attended South Tahoe High School, graduating in 1997. Though Sencion is listed as a student in yearbook indexes, there are no photos of him alone or with classmates. And school officials, contacted by the AP, said no current teachers remembered him.

Officials chase unconfirmed al-Qaida bomb plot

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. officials said Thursday they were investigating a credible but unconfirmed threat that al-Qaida was planning to use a car bomb to target bridges or tunnels in New York City or Washington to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, the first tip of an "active plot" around that date.

The Homeland Security Department said the threat is credible and specific but unconfirmed. The nation's terror alert level has not changed, but raising it was under consideration Thursday night.

Law enforcement officials were investigating three people who recently entered the U.S. The threat was received by the U.S. intelligence community late Wednesday night, officials said.

"There is specific, credible but unconfirmed threat information," said Janice Fedarcyk, the assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York division. "As we always do before important dates like the anniversary of 9/11, we will undoubtedly get more reporting in the coming days."

James McJunkin, the assistant FBI director in the Washington field office, said his agents weren't seeking any particular suspects.

"There's no named individual," he told reporters in a late-night news conference.

Security has been enhanced around the country in the weeks leading up to the 10th anniversary. Law enforcement officials have been wary, particularly after information gleaned from Osama bin Laden's compound in May indicated that al-Qaida had considered attacking the U.S. on the anniversary and other important dates.

The threat came in a single piece of information and was so specific—and came at such a time of already heightened alert—that it could not be ignored. The officials described the threat to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive security matters.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg told reporters that police there were deploying additional resources around the city but that New Yorkers should go about their business as usual. The city's observance of the attacks will go on as planned, Bloomberg said.

The FBI and Homeland Security Department issued a joint intelligence bulletin Thursday night to law enforcement around the country urging them to maintain enhanced security and be on the lookout for suspicious activity.

Asia

Ex-PM feared for Japan's survival in nuke crisis

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's former prime minister says he feared early in the March nuclear crisis that it might become many times worse than the Chernobyl disaster and threaten the nation's survival.

Naoto Kan says he imagined "deserted scenes of Tokyo without a single man" and the need to evacuate tens of millions of people.

"It was truly a spine-chilling thought," Kan said in an interview with the Tokyo Shimbun daily published Tuesday.

Kan said those images flashed in his mind during the first week of the crisis, when information coming from the radiation-leaking Fukushima Dai-ichi plant was sketchy and he was told that its operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., was considering pulling out its staff. TEPCO has since said that it never planned to withdraw from the plant.

Kan, who resigned last week amid criticism over his administration's handling of the disaster, said when he heard that cooling systems had failed at the nuclear plant soon after it was damaged by a March 11 tsunami, he understood the gravity of the situation.

"The power was totally lost and there was no cooling capacity. I knew what that meant. So I thought, 'This is going to be a disaster.'"

Kan said crisis management at the plant failed because the emergency plans included no scenario for a total power failure.

Authorities have since said that the cores of three of the six reactors melted down—much worse than they said initially—spewing about one-sixth the radiation emitted by the accident at Chernobyl.

After a series of hydrogen explosions, Kan said he heard from then-Trade Minister Banri Kaieda that TEPCO was considering pulling out staff from the nuclear plant.

Without staff to cool the overheated reactors, Kan said he knew the reactors and spent nuclear fuel stored in pools would "rapidly melt down and release massive amounts of radiation."

He said he summoned then-TEPCO President Masataka Shimizu for an explanation, but he "never told me anything clearly."

AP

In this Aug. 26, 2011 photo, Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan pauses during a press conference in Tokyo, announcing his resignation to the nation.

"Withdrawing from the plant was out of the question. If that had happened, Tokyo would have been deserted by now. It was a critical moment for Japan's survival. It could have been a disaster leaking dozens of times more radiation than Chernobyl," he said.

"Japan was facing the possibility of a collapse" at that time, he said in a separate interview published Wednesday by the Mainichi newspaper. "I was under an enormous sense of crisis."

As Kan grew more skeptical of TEPCO's handling of the accident, he established a joint task force with the company at its headquarters four days after the crisis began.

At about that time, the U.S. government, which had been providing assistance from the start, was becoming frustrated, Kan said.

"We were not told straight out, but it was obvious that they questioned whether we were really taking this seriously," Kan said. Japan then sent a pair of helicopters to pour water over one of the reactors in a largely unsuccessful attempt to cool it down. He said the move had a "symbolic" effect that eased some concerns.

Because of the high radiation levels, he said officials feared there would be a shortage of workers at the plant even after their maximum radiation exposure limit was raised to 250 millisieverts from 100 millisieverts. Kan said officials considered raising the limit further, but the discussion abated as the initial critical situation eased.

The Fukushima complex is about 140 miles (225 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo. The greater Tokyo area has more than 30 million people.

Some 100,000 people from around the plant have been evacuated. While the amount of radiation leaking from the plant has dropped significantly, authorities say accumulated radiation in the soil and vegetation may make it difficult for residents to return to their homes for some time, perhaps years.

ASIA BRIEFS

NATO says soldier killed Afghan reporter for BBC

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A NATO soldier killed an Afghan reporter for the BBC in July because he mistook him for an insurgent, the NATO-led force in Afghanistan said Thursday. NATO said an investigation showed the soldier thought reporter Ahmed Omed Khpulwak, 25, was wearing a suicide bomb vest and was about to detonate it. The shooting took place in Tarin Kot, the capital of southern Uruzgan province, on July 28 during a militant attack targeting the Afghan government and its allies. The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. John R. Allen, ordered the investigation.

NKorea holds military parade amid succession

SEOUL South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and his son are watching a massive military parade in Pyongyang to mark the 63rd anniversary of the country's founding. North Korea's official television showed goose-stepping troops carrying rifles, rocket launchers and a large portrait of the country's late founder Kim Il Sung as they marched past Kim Jong Il and his youngest son Kim Jong Un. Kim Jong Il inherited the country from his father Kim Il Sung. The 69-year-old leader is now trying to pass his power on to his third son. The two saluted, the son standing stiffly in a black Mao suit, and clapped hands on a podium as thousands of civilians gathered in neat rows, waving pink artificial flowers and chanting Kim Jong Il's name.

Vietnam's former President Cong dead at 99

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam's state media say former President Vo Chi Cong has died at age 99. Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan says Cong died Thursday at a hospital in southern Ho Chi Minh City. He had long been ill. Cong was born Vo Toan in central Quang Nam province and joined the Communist Party in 1935. He gradually rose in the ranks. He was appointed deputy prime minister in 1976, a year after the Vietnam War and served as president from 1987 to 1991.

Captain Jihad: Ex-terrorist is now comic book hero

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The real life adventures of former al-Qaida-linked terrorist Nasir Abas have become a new comic book in Indonesia depicting him as a militant villain who transforms into an invaluable ally in the fight against terrorism. The story of the soft-spoken 42-year-old is well-known in Indonesia. He went from helping train Muslim militants who carried out the deadly Bali bombings in 2002 to informing police about the inner-workings of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network. He's also joined a government program to convince convicted terrorists that killing unarmed civilians is wrong.

UN chief regrets lack of terrorism convention

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon said Friday that he regrets that member nations have failed to agree on a comprehensive counterterrorism convention in the decade since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Ban said the U.N. could have achieved more.

"We immediately started to agree on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, but regrettably this has not come about today," the U.N. secretary-general told reporters in the Australian capital Canberra after attending a South Pacific leaders' forum in New Zealand.

Negotiations on such a legally binding convention have repeatedly broken down over definitions of what constitutes terrorism and who is a terrorist.

U.N. members have split into two camps over the Palestinians: the Arab world against Israel, United States and much of Europe. There is also a less prominent divide between the backers of Pakistan and those of its archrival India.

The world body has passed 16 separate conventions dealing piecemeal with types of terrorism including bombing, hijacking and use of nuclear materials.

The U.N. also passed a global counterterrorism strategy in 2006 that sidestepped the lack of agreement on a legal definition for terrorism.

But Robert Orr, chairman of the U.N. Counterterrorism Implementation Task Force, said the strategy combined with the various counterterrorism conventions have limitations.

Ban

"That strategy has operationally everything we need to fight terrorism with the backing of all the U.N. member states," Orr told The Associated Press. "What it doesn't have is the legal enforceability of a convention in specific areas."

"Legally, international law covers almost everything that you would want it to cover. What it doesn't is this gray area: If someone is accusing someone else of engaging in terrorist activities, there's no clinical definition of whether or not they are," he added.

Ban said was proud of his part in the U.N. response to the al-Qaida attacks, including a resolution on Sept. 12, 2001, strongly condemning the attacks as heinous and calling for international cooperation to prevent and eradicate acts of terrorism. But

Ban, who has been U.N. secretary-general since 2007, was a U.N. official in New York when the World Trade Center twin towers collapsed.

The 67-year-old former South Korean diplomat plans to fly from Australia to New York to attend a concert on Saturday in memory of the thousands of victims who died in that city and Washington.

China to monitor officials traveling abroad

BEIJING (AP)—China has launched a program to try to stop corrupt officials from fleeing the country by monitoring transfers of funds and reviewing applications for overseas travel, a government management body said Friday.

Corruption is endemic in China, with huge amounts of money involved, and the ruling Communist Party has said repeatedly that the problem threatens its hold on power.

The yearlong program, launched this month, has been implemented in 10 regions including Guangdong and Shanghai, according to a report posted on the Ministry of Supervision website.

The program is the latest of numerous efforts in recent years by the central government to curb graft, often a focal point of protests by ordinary Chinese. But it remains common among party and government officials.

In June, a central bank report said thousands of corrupt officials had stolen more than $120 billion and fled overseas since the mid-1990s—with the U.S. a top destination.

Chinese officials have since backed away from the report, saying the numbers in it were incorrect, while adding China is "strengthening international cooperation in law enforcement to catch and prevent corrupt officials from fleeing abroad."

The latest campaign will require overseas travel by officials and their family members to be closely reviewed while local governments will closely monitor asset transfers abroad, the report said.

The Ministry of Supervision is part of the State Council, or Cabinet, and is responsible for supervising the work of all State Council departments, civil servants and other government employees, and investigating violations of administrative regulations involving them.

The report said local officials should submit more detailed documents for investigations into corruption cases and prevent corrupt officials from fleeing to "safeguard the party's image and national interests."

In recent years, Chinese prosecutors have made some high-profile takedowns in hopes of deterring graft among the rank and file. In China's largest recent corruption scandal, the powerful party boss of Shanghai, Chen Liangyu, was sentenced in 2008 to 18 years in prison.

World

Hopes cool for freedom of American jailed in Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—Hopes that a U.S. government subcontractor jailed in Cuba might soon be freed were dashed when former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said the Cuban government refused to let him meet with the prisoner.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Richardson described 62-year-old Alan Gross as an "American hostage." He said he would not leave the island until he was allowed to see him at a military hospital where he is being held.

"My mission here as a private citizen is to secure the release of Alan Gross, an American hostage," Richardson said late Thursday. "I've been informed by the Cuban government that I would not be allowed to see Alan Gross during my visit."

AP

Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson walks through the National Hotel after a morning work out in Havana, Cuba, early Thursday Sept. 8, 2011.

Richardson said that he had been scheduled to depart Saturday, but that he told Cuban officials he would not leave until he was granted a meeting with Gross.

"I promised his wife, Judy, that I would see him," the governor said.

It was not clear whether he had any further meetings scheduled Friday. There was no immediate comment from Cuba's government, or from Washington.

The news, delivered by a somber Richardson at the end of a long day of meetings with Cuban officials, was sure to come as a shock to those who had felt certain Gross' long ordeal was nearing an end.

Gross' lawyer said Wednesday that Richardson came to Havana at the invitation of the Cuban government, and earlier Thursday a leading Cuban official praised the governor and described Gross as a "victim."

The case has chilled efforts to improve ties between Washington and Havana, and the failure of Richardson's visit to win his release would likely set things back even further.

The State Department said Thursday that President Barack Obama's administration has been in touch with Richardson.

Richardson, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has a working relationship with Cuba's leaders and a long history of winning the release of prisoners in Cuba and elsewhere. His description of Gross as a hostage—rather than a prisoner—was sure to rankle Cuban leaders.

Gross was arrested in December 2009 while on a USAID-funded democracy building program. A Cuban court convicted the Maryland native in March of crimes against the state for illegally bringing in communications equipment and sentenced him to 15 years in jail, a decision that was upheld last month by the country's Supreme Court.

Gross has insisted he was only trying to help Cuba's tiny Jewish community improve Internet access, and says he had no desire to offend Cuba's communist government. Cuba says the USAID program was a thinly veiled attempt to overthrow the government.

In court testimony from March that was released last week by his own lawyer, Gross described himself as a "trusting fool."

"I was duped. I was used. And my family and I have paid dearly for this," he told the tribunal.

With the Supreme Court decision, which effectively ended Gross' legal options, efforts have turned to winning his release on humanitarian grounds.

Those who have met and spoken with him say Gross has lost 100 pounds (45 kilos) while in custody, and both his elderly mother and adult daughter are suffering from cancer, among other hardships the family has endured.

Richardson was last in Havana in August 2010, when he met with Cuba's foreign minister and appealed for Gross' release. As a congressman in 1996, Richardson secured the liberation of three island political prisoners during talks with former Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter also raised Gross' case at the highest levels of government during a trip to Havana in March. The former president was received warmly by Fidel and current Cuban President Raul Castro and was even allowed to talk with Gross in jail, but he left empty-handed.

Libyan rebel PM calls for unity, rebuilding

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—A hunted Moammar Gadhafi called on his remaining loyalists Thursday to keep fighting, as the country's acting premier appealed from the capital for national unity to rebuild the North African nation after six months of civil war.

Rebel forces effectively ended Gadhafi's rule last month when they seized the capital Tripoli, sending the 42-year autocrat into hiding. Libya's new rulers have been searching for him while trying to negotiate the surrender of towns still held by Gadhafi supporters.

On Thursday, Gadhafi loyalists fired at least 10 rockets from inside one of the towns as former rebel forces amassed outside.

Former rebels have been waiting outside Bani Walid for days while their leaders try to negotiate the town's surrender before a deadline this weekend.

Speaking to reporters in Tripoli Thursday, Mahmoud Jibril, the acting prime minister, called the negotiations an opportunity to avoid further bloodshed, but said his forces would respond if attacked.

"The right to self-defense will remain a right even before this issue concludes," he said. He also criticized the town's leaders, saying they had shown "no real initiatives or intentions to give peace a chance and bring unity back to the Libya people."

Bani Walid, a dusty town of 100,000 some 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli, has emerged as a focus in the fight against pro-Gadhafi holdouts. Some say prominent regime loyalists, including Gadhafi's son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, could be inside.

Regime loyalists also still control Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte and the southern city of Sabha.

In Tripoli, Jibril said that a new government can be formed only after the whole country is "liberated."

"I hope that we as Libyans, just as we fought to free the land and its people, will be able to join hands to fight the battle to rebuild," he said.

Thursday's appearance was Jibril's first since rebel forces stormed the capital on Aug. 21. Since then, Libya's new leaders have been scrambling to establish an interim administration to run the country's affairs until a new constitution can be written and elections can be held.

Many high-level leaders in the National Transitional Council, including its head, have yet to move to the capital. Jibril said the delay was for security reasons.

"Don't forget that many elements of the regime and pockets of the regime are still present," he said. "And it is our right as Libyans to protect the leaders of this revolution."

From hiding hours earlier, Gadhafi denied rumors he had fled Libya, vowed never to leave the land of his ancestors and exhorted followers to keep fighting. The message was broadcast on a pro-Gadhafi satellite TV channel based in Syria.

Gadhafi hasn't been seen in public for months. Finding him would help seal the new rulers' hold on the country and likely trigger the collapse of remaining loyalist resistance.

Mexican navy dismantles Zeta communication system

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)—The Mexican navy dismantled a telecommunications system set up by the Zetas drug cartel in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz and arrested 80 people, including six police officers, officials announced Thursday.

Navy spokesman Jose Luis Vergara said forces confiscated 13 antennae the cartel set up in several cities in Veracruz to provide communication for the gang's two-way radios.

The 26-day operation also netted seven amplifiers, power supplies, batteries, solar panels and wiring and seven trailer trucks carrying medical kits, clothing and groceries. The system was operated from a central base in Veracruz and reached part of neighboring Tabasco state, Vergara said.

Most of the 80 detainees have prior arrests for extortion, drug trafficking, kidnapping and murder, he said.

Veracruz, which lies on drug- and migrant-trafficking routes north, has experienced a spike in violence as the Gulf and Zetas cartels fight an intensifying turf war in the state.

More than 35,000 people have been killed in Mexico since President Felipe Calderon began deploying federal police and troops to some regions in December 2006 to fight drug traffickers. Other groups put the death toll at 40,000.

On Thursday, Finance Secretary Ernesto Cordero announced that the federal government's 2012 budget will allocate $11.8 billion to agencies in charge of battling drug cartels, an increase of 11 percent from 2011.

In the northern state of Chihuahua, authorities said Thursday that they found weapons and drugs in three tunnels dug under a state prison in the city of Chihuahua.

Authorities found six automatic rifles, 18 hand weapons, hundreds of bullets, cell phones, heroine, cocaine and marijuana, state prosecutors spokesman Carlos Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said authorities found the weapons while searching the Aquiles Serdan prison for evidence that inmates were running an extortion network from there.

He said police are investigating whether the group had help from prison officials.

WORLD BRIEFS

US accuses 4 Venezuelans of aiding Colombia rebels

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The U.S. government on Thursday accused a powerful Venezuelan general, an intelligence official and two political allies of President Hugo Chavez of providing arms, security and training to Colombia's main rebel group. It barred Americans from doing business with them. The U.S. Treasury Department said the four had closely collaborated with the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, supporting the rebel group's "narcotics and arms trafficking activities." It did not specify a time period for that alleged assistance.

Turkish PM says navy will escort aid ships to Gaza

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey's prime minister has said Turkish warships will escort Turkish Gaza-bound aid ships in the future. Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Al-Jazeera television that the navy will accompany the aid ships to protect them from raids like the one Israel launched on a flotilla trying to break the Gaza blockade last year, when nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed.

Sudanese forces pull out of Abyei

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Assistant U.N. peacekeeping chief Edmond Mulet says government troops from Sudan's Arab north and the south's Sudan People's Liberation Movement will soon pull out of the contested region of Abyei. The pullout comes as Ethiopian peacekeepers begin moving in for a temporary assignment to demilitarize the region, with 1,700 of 4,200 peacekeepers now in place. Mulet told reporters after a closed Security Council meeting about Sudan on Thursday that the two sides agreed in Addis Ababa earlier Thursday to pull out of the region between Sept. 11 and 30. The council has authorized the deployment of the Ethiopian force for six months.

Youngstyle

Children excluded from school shopping?

By ELLEN GIBSON
AP RETAIL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Anyone who has taken their kids back-to-school shopping knows how hard it can be to resist pleas for a Dora the Explorer folder or a Lightning McQueen lunchbox. But this year, some parents have been testing a new strategy: leaving the little ones at home.

Parents are being squeezed by stagnant wages and rising costs, not to mention a growing list of classroom supplies that teachers request they buy. But kids want the Nike shoes and Abercrombie & Fitch tees they see in ads every day; never mind the cost. They also don't like to be dragged from store-to-store while their parents comparison shop. As a result, only 56 percent of parents say they're bringing their kids along for back-to-school shopping this year, down from 80 percent last year, according to marketing data firm America's Research Group.

"One of the best ways to save money is to do the shopping and bring it home and say, `Here are your back-to-school clothes,'" says ARG president C. Britt Beemer. "When children are along, pleasing them and avoiding a tantrum is an easier choice than trying to say `no way.'"

Gayle Strickland Jones, who lives in Middletown, Del., decided to handle the back-to-shopping this year without her children after her ten-year-old son pleaded for an $8 pair of titanium scissors at Staples—just because they were cool. On a solo trip, she ended up buying a $3 basic pair of scissors at Walmart instead.

Similarly, Jones, who works at DuPont, was able to save money on purchases for her daughter. Last year, Jones bought her seventh-grade daughter a new backpack with polka dots, so this year, the girl requested that all her school supplies be in zebra print. As a compromise, Jones picked up a two-pack of zebra-print erasers for $1.

Ultimately, shopping without the kids saves Jones money, which is important since her husband was laid off from his sales job earlier this year. She spent just $75 on school supplies this year—much less than she says she spent last year—and even less than if the kids had been with her.

AP
In an Aug. 31, 2011 photo, Gayle Strickland Jones shops for back-to-school supplies for her fifth-grade son and seventh-grade daughter at Staples in Chestnut Hill Plaza in Newark, Del. To keep their back-to-school shopping receipts in check, some parents are testing a new strategy: leaving the little ones at home.

"They would not only be pickier but wanting things they don't necessarily need," Jones says about shopping with her kids.

To be sure, children have always bugged their parents to buy unnecessary doodads. A generation ago, kids begged their parents for Legos and My Little Pony after watching commercials for the toys during Saturday morning cartoons. But that was the extent of their brand exposure.

Now, kids are being marketed to on several digital channels from the time they can talk. In total, companies spend roughly $17 billion per year advertising to kids, up from $100 million in 1983, according to the nonprofit group Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood. And children under eight are the most susceptible to marketing because they interpret ads literally, not understanding that the intent is to drive sales.

"If you show it to kids enough, they're going to want it," says Sandra Calvert, director of the Children's Digital Media Center at Georgetown University.

That's put a new level of pressure on parents at a time when they're looking to spend conservatively in the down economy. The average family with kids in grades kindergarten through 12 plans to shell out $604 for clothes, school supplies and electronics this year, down slightly from $606 last year

But in a 2011 back-to-school shopping survey by market-research firm Kelton Research, most parents said that, more often than not, their kids push them to buy certain products or brands. And almost one in two parents said they feel pressure to buy the highest-quality or costliest items for their children.

"When I was a kid, I used to pester my parents for name brand shoes, but I had much less access and I was much less marketed to," says Gareth Schweitzer, president of Kelton Research, adding that now it's "harder for parents to save money."

Gina Lincicum, a stay-at-home mother of an eight-year-old boy and five-year-old twins, says it's tough to keep a budget in check when shopping with kids. So this year, she's decided to order her children's clothing online, then have them try it on at home, where they won't be tempted by more expensive duds. (Lincicum, the blogger behind the site Moneywisemoms.com, says she waiting until late September to do this in order to catch deals.)

"When we're out, my son says `I want that Mario t-shirt,'" says Lincicum, whose family has been feeling the stress of the high cost of living in their Northern Virginia town. "I'm like, `Wait a second, you have enough t-shirts to get you through two years."

Sue Werle took a similar approach when she decided to exclude her four children ages 2 to 8 from back-to-school shopping trips.

Werle, who lives in Sherwood, Ore., opted to buy most of her kids' school supplies online because she could take her time and ensure she was getting the lowest price—a feat that she says is impossible when she brings the kids to the store because they are impatient and want a lot of unnecessary things. For instance, her eight-year-old son insists on Skechers-brand shoes, which can run between $36 and $60 in his size.

"It's hard when you know those Hot Wheels pencils are just really cool," says Werle, who opted for very basic school supplies, but decided to allow each child to pick out one bigger, special item, like a backpack or pair of shoes. "But when you're trying to stick to a budget, you have to go, `What's going to matter to my child in the long run—that they have a cool backpack or the pencil that in two weeks is going to be lost, broken or chewed on?'"

Laura Train decided to do her back-to-school shopping without her kids even knowing. Train, who works for the Social Security Administration in Baltimore County, picked up school supplies at Target while her two children were out of town in Texas this summer.

Between clothing and supplies, she budgeted $500 for both kids and so far she hasn't gone over. But her kids are at an age—11 and 14—that she didn't feel comfortable buying everything without their input. Train did her best, though, getting basic, inexpensive items in colors she thought they would like. She even picked up one item for her daughter that wasn't on the list.

"I got her a mirror for her locker," Train says. "She thought that was pretty cool."

Kids' Krafts: Show your school spirit with a team pin

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Practice may have already started for fall sports such as football and soccer, with volleyball not far behind. With school starting soon, you are probably thinking about sports that you may be competing in as a representative of your school.

Extracurricular activities can be as important as school work and lessons to some of you, especially if you are a good athlete. Kudos to you, the athletes, including cheerleaders, who make sports an integral part of your school.

Usually, when we think of back-to-school crafts, we think of book covers and pencil cases. But before the new school year begins, get an early start and make a pin to show your school spirit.

MCT

Today's craft is for all the rest of you who may not be athletically inclined. Just because you don't play sports doesn't mean you have less school spirit than the people who compete. There will always be good athletes but their accomplishments wouldn't seem nearly as important without you, the fans, who come out each season and cheer them on.

There is a reason the Cleveland Browns always consider their fans to be the 12th man on the field. Fans in the Dawg Pound are known around the country and their rousing support during games makes winning home games even more spectacular.

Usually, when we think of back-to-school crafts, we think of book covers and pencil cases. But before the new school year begins, get an early start and make a pin to show your school spirit with directions I found at http://www.favecrafts.com/Back-to-School-Kids-Crafts/Back-to-School-Spirit-Pin-From-DecoArt#. I changed the directions a bit for our use.

Supplies you will need:

DecoArt Patio paints in marigold yellow and red or your school colors.

Ultra Fine black tip permanent marker.

Tacky glue.

Grosgrain or scrapbooking ribbons, about six 1›-inch lengths of each in four complementary colors.

Wood oval, about 2 by 3 inches.

1 small wooden star.

1 pin back.

Paint one side of the oval and the edge marigold yellow and set aside to dry.

Paint one side and the edges of the star red and set aside to dry.

Cut the ribbons into equal-length strips.

When the oval is dry, start laying the ribbons, overlapping them onto the back of the oval. When you like your design, begin gluing the ribbons to the back of the oval.

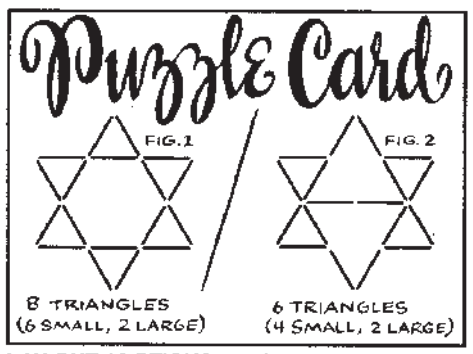
Turn the oval over and press it down on your work surface, (I used a piece of wax paper) until it dries.

Glue the dried, red star to the side of the oval, using the photo for placement, then draw stitching lines around the outside edge of the star.

Draw your school's name on the front, or the name of your school's mascot, such as panthers, bulldogs or warriors, and write "Go, Team" along with it.

When all the glue is dry, turn the oval over and glue a pin back to the upper center of the back side.

Puzzle Card



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LAY OUT 18 STICKS, as shown in Fig.1, giving you eight triangles. Challenge your friends to move two of the sticks to new positions, so that there will be six triangles. Fig. 2 shows you how.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

DON'T LET THIS ONE CAGE YOU IN!

Illustrated by David Coulson

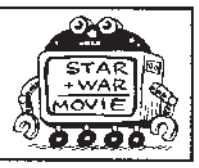
LARK
LANK
LINK
SINK
SING

You have five minutes to sing out the answers to these Ladder Puzzles. In this type of problem you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word to form a new word. In our example, we changed LARK to SING in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each.

1. TEED to GOLF
2. FIRE to WOOD
3. HOLD to CARD
4. BOAT to DECK
5. CASE to WORK

Answers:
1. TEED, TOED, TOLD, GOLD, GOLF.
2. FIRE, FORE, FORD, WORD, WOOD.
3. HOLE, HOLD, COLD, CORD, CARD.
4. BOAT, BEAT, BEAK, BECK, DECK.
5. CASE, CARE, CORE, WORE, WORK.

A WARP FACTOR FIVE FRAZZLER! See if you can replace the letters on this droid's screen with the digits 0 through 9, so that you will have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.



Our answer: S=9, T=8, A=3, R=2, W=7, M=1, O=0, V=5, I=6, E=4 (9832 + 732 = 10564).

HERE'S A JUICY PROBLEM! At the right is a Word Square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below?

1. Source of raisins (in place).
2. All stirred up.
3. In association with.
4. A British coin.
5. Borders; dividing lines.

1 G	2 R	3 A	4 P	5 E
2 R				
3 A				
4 P				
5 E				

Answers: 1. Grape. 2. Riled. 3. Along. 4. Pence. 5. Edges.

Learn your state's pet evacuation laws

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: During Hurricane Irene, I was kept busy contacting my town's superintendent's office on behalf of some of my older neighbors who were worried about evacuating with their pets. The misinformation about evacuating with pets was huge. Fortunately we were spared the flooding that took place in surrounding towns. After the storm, the fire chief told me my neighbors could have brought their pets with them as long as they were crated.

Please let your readers know that many states, including Vermont, have pet evacuation laws on the books that specify exactly how and where owners can evacuate with their pets. Owners need to know them, because many emergency centers and local media did not, and citizens often were misinformed.—S.H., Bellows Falls, Vt.

DEAR S.H.: Thank you for the heads-up! Readers, in 2006 following Hurricane Katrina, the federal government passed the PETS (Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards) Act, which requires state and local governments to include companion pets in their disaster planning and evacuation plans. Laws in each state and municipality are slightly different, so it's important to familiarize yourself with the regulations where you reside prior to a natural disaster.

For example, Louisiana and New York permit pets to ride on public transportation with their owners if an evacuation is declared. Check your state government's website (go to www.pawscorner.com for a list of links to each state's site) or contact the emergency planning agency by phone to get details.

Of course, it's also important to include your pet in emergency planning at home. Keep your pet's travel crate and important documents together, along with a small kit containing food, treats, toys and medications so you can quickly grab them and go if needed.

■■■

Send your question or comment to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was Hungarian psychiatrist Thomas Stephen Szasz who made the following sage observation: "If you talk to God, you are praying. If God talks to you, you have schizophrenia."

■ The world's most popular fruit is the banana. In the United States, people consume more bananas than apples and oranges put together.

■ Thomas Jefferson was an inventor as well as a statesman, but he refused to take out patents on any of his ideas. He believed that inventions should benefit all of humanity, not just himself.

■ According to those who study such things, the average American believes the ideal age—that is, the best year of his or her life—is 32. And when 30-somethings are asked when old age begins, the majority of men say it's in the late 60s, while more women believe old age begins in the 70s.

■ That iconic symbol of the Old West, the Pony Express, was based on the mail system used throughout the Mongol Empire in the 13th century. However, the Mongol riders often covered 125 miles in a single day, which was faster than the best record held by a Pony Express rider.

■ In Nazi Germany, it was illegal to name a horse "Adolph."

■ Unless you're from Central Florida, you've probably never heard of the small town of Ocoee. So you might be surprised to learn that during World War II, Ocoee earned the distinction of sending more men, per capita, to serve in the military than any other town in the United States.

■■■

Thought for the Day: "It ought to be plain / how little you gain / by getting excited / and vexed. / You'll always be late / for the previous train, / and always in time / for the next."—Piet Hein

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MAGIC MAZE ● BIRTH FLOWERS

O X V T Q S O M J H F Y D C A
H Y W U R P U N A L P P A J D
O H F D B Z X L N P O Y F V E
L A R K S P U R O R T E F R L
L Q O M K D O P D I I L O H P
Y F D B N H Z W Y M D L D W H
V T R E T Q O D O R N A I L I
K I L W H N A F D O C V L A N
Z A A X S I R E T S A W V G I
C H R Y S A N T H E M U M U U
S R Q Y R O L G G N I N R O M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Aster	Daisy	Holly	Primrose
Calendula	Delphinium	Larkspur	Rose
Chrysanthemum	Gladiolus	Morning glory	Snowdrop
Daffodil	Hawthorn	Poppy	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		+		10
+		×		−	
	+		+		19
×		+		×	
	×		−		17
21		15		16	

1 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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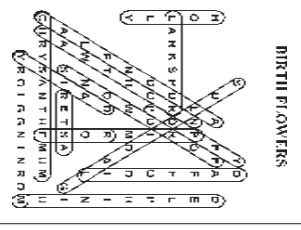
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

10	9	+	1	×	1
19	5	+	8	+	6
17	4	−	7	×	3
21	16	15			

Fabric blooms brighten back-to-school wardrobe

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

There's flower power in kids' and their moms' imaginations. Just ask 35-year-old Robyn Anderson, busy mom of three active daughters.

"I love fabric and can't get enough of prints, stripes and dots," she said as she unveiled before me piles of trendy cotton yardage she has collected here and there. "If I see clothing and accessories in the store that look simple and cute, I say to myself, "Now I can make that!"

Her latest inspiration blossomed when she and her 6-year-old daughter, Ocean, noticed flower-shaped fabric hair clips and embellishments in fall's back-to-school fashion. Layered petal-shaped fabric pinched together with buttons and an added clasp or pin on the back looked easy enough for them to make themselves, so they gave it a try. And yes, the blooms were a snap to make.

Get started creating one-of-a-kind adorable flower accessories too, using these simple steps. You'll soon discover that like flowers in nature, each one is unique. Once you make a few, share the creativity with other moms and their daughters for a get-together of creative and fashionable fun.

Here's what you'll need for one flower hair clip or clothing accessory:

■ Paper, pencil and scissors

■ Four 5-inch-by-5-inch pieces of cotton fabric or felt pieces in contrasting colors

■ Fabric glue

■ Button

■ Hair clasp or brooch pin, available in craft stores

■ Needle and thread

1. Make patterns. First, draw a 3-1/2-inch-wide shape on paper that resembles a three-leaf clover without the stem. (Pick clover from your yard for inspiration or look for a perfect clover shape in a book or online. Notice that each leaf is heart shaped as you begin drawing.) Draw two more shapes that are 2 1/2 inches and 2 inches in width.

2. Set patterns on fabric, outline with a pencil and cut out. You'll want two 3-1/2-inch shapes.

3. Stack and arrange cut-out shapes from the two largest 3 1/2 inch shapes to the smallest to resemble a flower, gluing each layer in place at the center point. Let glue dry, then pinch the center a bit and sew a button on top through all slightly pinched layers.

4. Sew hair clasp or glue brooch pin to the center of the back of the base.

Tip: Creating and crafting with school-age kids provides ideal opportunities for teaching and practicing new skills such as using sharp scissors or threading a needle.

■■■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

Guidelines for hiring pest control applicators

MCT

Terry Melton, corporate service and quality control manager for Knox Pest Control, sprays along a garage and driveway, which is one method of keeping insects from entering a house, June 1, 2006.

The Division of Environmental Quality wants the community to be mindful of health and safety regulations when procuring the services of professional exterminators or pest control applicators.

A pesticide is any substance used to control pests. Pests may be target insects, vegetation, fungi, etc. Most control the pests by poisoning them. Unfortunately, pesticides can be poisonous to humans; some are very poisonous, or toxic, and may seriously injure or even kill humans. Others are relatively non-toxic.

Pesticides can irritate the skin, eyes, nose, or mouth. The most important thing to remember is that you should always use caution whenever you work with any pesticide!

Homeowner Advisory

For those building a home or commercial building, DEQ reminds you that prior to conducting pesticide treatment on concrete structure or building foundation projects, there is some information you should be aware of, including obtaining a permit to apply pesticides for pre or post construction projects.

Only a professional pest control applicator can perform the structural treatment. The applicator must be trained and licensed. "Your family's health and safety may be compromised if the company or applicator is not permitted, licensed or certified," said Reina Camacho, manager for the Pesticide and Storage Tank Branch at DEQ.

In selecting a professional termite or pest control company, residents can call DEQ to verify the permit status of these applicators. Camacho said residents can also inquire if operators or applicators of a particular company are licensed and certified.

"This is important, because the application of pesticides and other chemicals must be performed or supervised by a certified pesticide applicator. A company's track record and appropriate insurance are other factors to consider when selecting a professional," she said.

Pesticide applicators operating on Saipan are Advance X Terminators, No Ka Oi Termite & Pest Control, Pacific Daiken Corp., and Western Pest Control.

DEQ also recommends that homeowners:

■ hold a pre-application meeting with the hired company to review what pests to be controlled;

■ review the extent of the problem;

■ check the active ingredients in the pesticide chosen;

■ review potential adverse health effects and typical symptoms of poisoning associated with the active ingredient;

■ check the form of the pesticide and application techniques; and

■ review non-chemical alternatives available (such as baiting systems).

Construction Company Advisory

As soon as you receive your Earthmoving Permit from DEQ, we recommend you:

■ Contact a professional pest control company and provide the establishment with:

■ A vicinity map (and driving directions)

■ A building foundation and footing plan

■ An estimated timeframe for when the foundation shall be ready for pesticide structural treatment

Once the professional pest control company submits a completed Pesticide Structural Treatment Permit Application to the Division of Environmental Quality, there is a 10-business day processing period.

Upon review and approval of the permit application, DEQ shall communicate with the professional pest control company to schedule the pesticide structural treatment application. (Application is usually performed within 2-days after the permit has been approved.)

The pesticide structural treatment application shall be performed during business hours (8am-5pm). For applications outside of business hours, a written request must be submitted to DEQ for approval, prior to the application.

The pesticide structural treatment application is best performed in the late afternoons, as most pesticides require a 4-hour re-entry interval at the treated site.

DEQ cautions that there are health effects of pesticides, depending on the type of pesticide. Pesticides are designed to kill pests but many can also pose risks to people, thus, DEQ requests that construction personnel and homeowners understand the reasons for permitting, and cautionary statements and requests cooperation from the community. ***(DEQ- Saipan)***

DOLLAR$ AND SENSE

Do-It-Yourself Credit Repair

By DAVID UFFINGTON
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

If you've been through a rough financial patch, it's likely that your credit has suffered. Late payments, minimum-only payments, credit-card balances that are too high and maybe even auto repossession could have drastic impacts on your credit score. If you're in a better position now, possibly with a new or better job, your credit can be repaired. It will take time, but it can be done. Here's how:

First, find out how bad the damage is. Send for your credit reports from all three of the major credit bureaus. Go over them carefully. Look for mistakes, such as accounts that aren't yours, wrong credit limit listed and accounts that you have already paid off showing a current balance. Notify the credit bureaus in writing (certified mail, not online) about any errors, and ask for an investigation. They have 30 days to respond. If they can't verify the accuracy of the item, they have to remove it. Once the repairs are made, get another batch of credit reports and do a line-by-line comparison.

Next, make a plan to hone down your credit. Determine which of your credit cards has the biggest debt-to-availability ratio. A card with $1,000 availability and a $900 balance is worse than a card with $10,000 availability and only $2,000 owed. The reason is that nearly maxing out a card counts more heavily against you because a larger percentage of your available credit is used.

Don't cancel any cards, for the above reason. When you get a card down to a zero balance, that availability helps your overall percentages. (History helps: Keep old accounts open, if only for the longevity they show.)

Pay more than the minimum on each card, on time, every month, with more money going to the ones with higher percentages of available credit used. Look at the credit report: You'll see a column indicating whether you have been making minimum or better payments. Even $10 extra takes you out of the "minimum only" category.

Don't take on any new credit until the current problems are resolved.

Full credit repair will take time, but it's worth the aggravation. The biggest benefit to taking steps to repair your credit is that future credit will be cheaper. You won't be in the "likely to default" category anymore, saddled with high interest rates.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Does your septic tank need pumping out?

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: How often do I need to have my septic tank pumped out? I keep getting calls and postcards from a local company saying I have to do it every year.—Jim S., via email

A: How often your septic tank actually needs to be pumped out varies depending on the size of the tank, the number of people in your home, and local or state regulations regarding septic tank maintenance.

First things first, however. How long has it been since your tank was last pumped out? If it's been more than six years, or you honestly can't remember, it's probably time.

If you know how long it's been since the last cleaning, the size of the tank will help you figure out when next to have it pumped out. For example, if you have a 500-gallon tank, and your home has four residents, the tank should be cleaned once per year. If there are only two residents in a home with a 500-gallon tank, a cleaning is only needed about every two and a half years.

The purpose of pumping out the tank is to remove solid waste, or sludge, which builds up over time. Too much sludge reduces the efficiency of the septic system and can block or damage drain pipes, causing a backup into your house (ugh!) or damage to the drain field through which liquid waste is safely disbursed. Even with a cleaning schedule in place, once a year you should have a technician come out and check the sludge level of the tank. If the sludge level is too high—past the halfway mark—a cleaning is needed, along with an evaluation of the system to make sure everything is working correctly.

Finally, a check of local and state regulations concerning septic tanks can save you some grief in the long run. Some municipalities mandate more frequent tank cleaning due to groundwater quality issues, and at least one county in Florida is requiring residents to completely replace tanks that are more than 40 years old.

Avoid flushing chemical products into a septic system. These will kill bacteria that are essential to breaking down waste.

Send your questions or comments to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Life & Style

Book: Kennedy scorned idea of Johnson as president

By BETH FOUHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — President John F. Kennedy openly scorned the notion of Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson succeeding him in office, according to a book of newly released interviews with his widow, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy.

She said her husband and his brother then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, a longtime LBJ antagonist, even discussed ways to prevent Johnson from winning the Democratic nomination in a future contest.

The book, "Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy," includes a series of interviews the former first lady gave to historian and former Kennedy aide Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. shortly after her husband was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963. Over seven sessions, she recalled conversations on topics ranging from her husband's reading habits to the botched Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba.

The book will be published by New York-based Hyperion Books on Sept. 14. Its release comes on the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's first year in office. The Associated Press bought a copy Thursday.

JFK chose Johnson, a Texas senator and former political rival, as his running mate in 1960. But Jacqueline Kennedy told Schlesinger in the 1964 interviews that he often fretted about the prospect of a Johnson presidency.

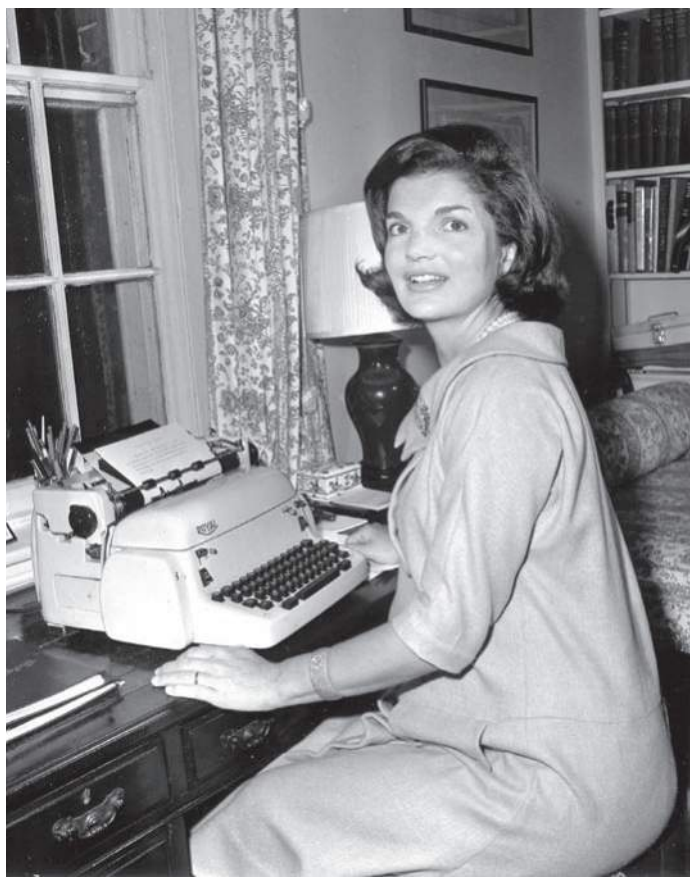
"Jack said it to me sometimes. He said, 'Oh, God, can you ever imagine what would happen to the country if Lyndon were president?'" she recalled. "And Bobby told me that he'd had some discussions with him ... do something to name someone else in 1968."

Johnson was sworn in as president after JFK's assassination and was elected to a full term in 1964. He declined to seek re-election in 1968.

Jacqueline Kennedy also indicated that her husband was highly skeptical about victory in Vietnam, a central battleground of the Cold War and the conflict that brought down Johnson's presidency. She said that JFK, a Democrat, had named Henry Cabot Lodge, a Republican he had defeated for a Massachusetts Senate seat in 1952, as U.S. ambassador to Vietnam because JFK was so doubtful of military success there.

"I think he probably did it ... rather thinking it might be such a brilliant thing to do because Vietnam was rather hopeless anyway, and put a Republican there," Jacqueline Kennedy said.

JFK increased the U.S. presence in Vietnam throughout his brief administration, adding military advisers to help train the South Vietnamese military. Johnson, as president, would later commit ground troops to the conflict despite initial promises not to. Historians still debate whether Kennedy would have done the same.



AP

In this Oct. 5, 1960 file photo, Jacqueline Kennedy poses at her typewriter where she writes her weekly "Candidate's Wife" column in her Georgetown home in Washington.

Jacqueline Kennedy spoke skeptically of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. She called him "tricky" and a "phony" after hearing about FBI tapes of King and a woman in his hotel room, while noting that President Kennedy had urged her not to be judgmental. (Kennedy's own adulterous affairs were not yet widely known.) She said King had mocked her husband's funeral and Cardinal Richard Cushing, who celebrated Mass at the funeral.

"He made fun of Cardinal Cushing and said that he was drunk at it," she said. "And things about they almost dropped the coffin. I just can't see a picture of Martin Luther King without thinking, you know, that man's terrible."

The book comes with eight audio CDs of the interviews. Jacqueline Kennedy's voice is firm and girlish, even and clear, but the interviews are occasionally interrupted by sounds of her children, Caroline, who was 5 at the time, and John Jr., who was 3. At one point, Schlesinger asks young John if he knows what happened to his father. "He's gone to heaven," the boy replies. Schlesinger asks what he remembers. "I don't remember ANYthing," John says playfully.

The book barely mentions the president's assassination. In a foreword, Caroline Kennedy notes her mother had discussed his murder at length with historian William Manchester, but later sued to keep much of the material from being published until 2067. Manchester's book on Kennedy, "The Death of a President," came out in 1967.

Jacqueline also gave a memorable interview with journalist Theodore H. White, when she referred to her husband's time in the White House as "Camelot," but Caroline Kennedy said the interviews in the new book were "by far the most important" her mother ever gave. Jacqueline Kennedy died in 1994.

"My mother willingly recalled the span of her married life and shared her insights into my father's private and public political personality," Caroline Kennedy wrote.

The former first lady and Schlesinger, who died in 2007, at times sound like a couple of old friends sharing gossip, ridiculing Richard Nixon's wife, Pat, or labeling LBJ's wife, Lady Bird, as so obedient she was like a "trained hunting dog." (Jacqueline Kennedy would later soften that opinion.)

At other times, the scholarly Schlesinger fills her in on details about her husband before she knew him or corrects a name or date. Jacqueline Kennedy, clearly at ease, speaks candidly about her in-laws and about other Kennedy insiders.

She marvels at the suspicious nature of her mother-in-law, Rose Kennedy, always wanting to know whether someone was Catholic.

Galliano convicted in anti-Semitism case

PARIS (AP)—John Galliano's drunken anti-Semitic ravings cost him his job at Paris luxury house Christian Dior and gave him a criminal record but didn't land him in jail, a Paris court ruled.

The court found Galliano guilty on two counts of "public insults based on origin, religious affiliation, race or ethnicity"—charges that carry a maximum sentence of six months in prison and fines of up to €20,000.

Galliano

But the three-magistrate panel showed leniency Thursday, sentencing the legendary designer to a €6,000 ($8,400) suspended fine, which means it goes on Galliano's criminal record but he does not have to pay it. The court did not give Galliano prison time.

Presiding judge Anne-Marie Sauteraud said the magistrates' clemency was in part due to the fact that the designer had apologized to the court and the plaintiffs—who contended the designer showered them with a litany of racist and anti-Semitic insults in two separate run-ins at a Paris watering hole.

In testimony before the court in proceedings in June, Galliano said he didn't recall anything about the spats and explained he had been under the influence of a "triple addiction" to alcohol, barbiturates and sleeping pills. Still, he added he was sorry for "the sadness that this whole affair has caused."

Lawyers for both sides welcomed Thursday's ruling.

"It is a wise ruling," Galliano lawyer Aurelien Hamelle told journalists outside the courtroom. "Mr. Galliano is clearly relieved ... and asked me to apologize for him once again."

Galliano "is looking forward to a future of forgiveness and understanding, hopefully, and to put all of this behind him."

Yves Beddouk, an attorney representing one of the plaintiffs, said his client, Geraldine Bloch, was "perfectly satisfied."

Although Galliano will not have to fork out any money in fines, he was ordered to pay €16,500 ($23,200) in court fees for Bloch and two other plaintiffs, as well as five anti-racism associations. The court also ordered him to pay a symbolic €1 ($1.40) in damages to each.

Moshe Kantor, the president of the European Jewish Congress, denounced the ruling.

"It is outrageous that someone who told others that they 'ought to be dead' and expressed support for the Holocaust gets away with less than a slap on the wrist," Kantor said. "This sentence demonstrates that there appears to be a culture of impunity in the entertainment world."

The Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Jewish human rights organization, said "the symbolic one euro fine by a French court was the right legal punishment for John Galliano's public anti-Semitic outbursts.

"Now it is up to him to make amends to the community he demeaned and to the public at large," according to a statement from the center. "That cannot be achieved through carefully crafted press releases but only through his future deeds and words."

Although Galliano's remarks would not be punishable in the U.S., France has strict laws aimed at curbing anti-Semitic and racist language. The laws were enacted in the decades following the Holocaust.

Galliano did not attend Thursday's ruling, and judge Sauteraud explained his absence as an attempt to keep him out of the media spotlight.

'Glee' Emmy nominee reflects on 'New York' episode

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Costume designer Lou A. Eyrich was just this side of gobsmacked upon discovering she and supervisor Marisa Aboitiz had been nominated for a Creative Arts Emmy Award for their work on the "Glee" episode, "New York."

"I just didn't expect it," Eyrich explained. "But I'm thrilled, obviously. But there is so much good TV on this season, so many great shows. And all the great period shows."

AP

In this undated image released by FOX, costume designer Lou Eyrich, left, fits actress Jane Lynch for her role in the FOX series, "Glee," in Los Angeles.

In fact, this year, all "Glee" competes against is period pieces: "Boardwalk Empire," ''The Borgias," ''Game of Thrones" and "Mad Men."

"So, it was, I felt like the little engine that could," Eyrich said, "even though 'Glee' is not a little engine, obviously anymore."

Eyrich continued discussing her work on "New York" during a recent interview at an Academy-hosted reception celebrating costume nominees, held at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in downtown Los Angeles.

"We threw it together," she confessed. "We landed in New York on a Saturday night, shopped all day Sunday, threw them in the clothes. Some of it was done in L.A., but, literally, we just had to throw them out there in Central Park and on the steps in Times Square. And it just was so fun. And we just thought that, 'Let's just submit this one.'"

From the episode's first frame, a 360-degree pan of Times Square to actress Lea Michele in an eye-popping multi-colored mini coat, it was clear this wouldn't be just any old "Glee" episode, at least in terms of design — starting with That Cat. It's something Marlo Thomas easily could have worn on the '60s sitcom favorite "That Girl."

"We were told that they wanted it to be kind of a little nod to 'Breakfast at Tiffany's,' and all the iconic New York places where we were going to shoot," Eyrich said. "And they wanted it a little romantic and so with a little bit of '50s, '60s flair. So we just fanned out and shopped and that just magically worked. But then we didn't want it to look too vintage. So we added it with fun tights and platforms and a little beret."

In fact, two of the characters, Kurt (played by Emmy nominee Chris Colfer) and Rachel (Michele) actually do have breakfast at Tiffany's in the episode. "And then they go perform on the stage of 'Wicked.' And just trying to come up with something cute and youthful, but that they would dress up for and again, threw it together in a day," Eyrich noted, with a laugh.

Nike releases famed "Back to the Future" shoe

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)—Nike is going back to the future.

The sneaker maker on Thursday said it has created a limited-edition shoe based on a glowing pair that appeared in the popular 1989 movie "Back to the Future II." The 2011 Nike Mag is designed to be an exact replica of the fictional sneaker, including a glowing Nike name on the strap. But unlike the movie version, these shoes won't lace themselves.

Nike will release 1,500 pairs of the 2011 Nike Mag sneaker for auction on eBay and donate all proceeds to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's disease research. Fox famously played Marty McFly in the "Back to the Future" time-travel trilogy, where he wore the shoes during a visit to the year 2015.

"It hasn't gone unnoted by us that there is something special about that shoe and, of course, the movie," said famed Nike shoe designer Tinker Hatfield, who helped design the original shoe and worked on the latest version.

Limited-edition shoes can draw as much, if not more mania, as a new movie or comic book release. Fans obsessively track the latest news and are willing to camp out all night or spending hundreds or more for a single pair online.

AP

This undated image provided by Nike, the 2011 Nike Mag is seen.

Nike's collector sneaker has been long awaited by shoe collectors and movie fans, who have been urging the company to make them ever since the movie was released. There were roughly eight or ten pairs used in the movie, some of which are in Nike's possession and a few that collectors somehow got their hands on.

Owning them, or even seeing a pair of them, has become a singular pursuit for some fans. There was even an online campaign a few years ago called "McFly 2015, Make it Happen" that gathered thousands of signatures to convince Nike to bring the McFly shoe back.

"This is the biggest thing that has happened to sneakers since Michael Jordan, hands down," said Matt Halfill, an avid shoe collector who runs the website nicekicks.com and flew from Austin, Texas to Los Angeles for the unveiling of the shoe on Thursday hours after Nike contacted him. "Other than the birth of one of my children, I wouldn't have missed this for anything."

Nike Inc., based in Beaverton, Oregon, decided more than four years ago to create the shoe, but was unsure when a pair would be ready. Unlike the shoes in the movie, the real-life versions had to be designed for day-to-day use. For instance, the design used in the movie required Fox to wear a battery pack with wires running down his pants to light the shoe, which was the best technology available at the time.

Hatfield said the Nike Mag has been difficult to develop and the electrical systems, which illuminate the shoe for up to five hours, have been one of the most challenging things the company has ever done in footwear. But the timing seemed perfect to bring the shoe back to support a bigger idea.

Dozens of potential Jackson case jurors dismissed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—More than half of the first panel of prospective jurors for the manslaughter trial of Michael Jackson's doctor were dismissed because of hardship claims Thursday, signaling a long search ahead for those who will serve in the five-week trial.

Jackson

And it is yet unclear how many prospects will be excused for disclosing strong opinions about Jackson, defendant Dr. Conrad Murray and the high profile case with which all potential panelists are familiar.

Authorities contend Murray gave Jackson a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol in the bedroom of the pop superstar's rented mansion in June 2009, but attorneys for the physician deny he administered anything that should have been fatal. They will contend that Jackson swallowed an overdose of propofol when Murray wasn't watching.

When the judge asked Thursday whether anyone in the jury room was unaware of case, not a single hand was raised.

A larger than expected contingent of 187 prospects showed up for questioning Thursday. Court officials said that of those, 115 were dismissed and 72 remained to fill out lengthy questionnaires probing their views of the case in which Murray is charged with involuntary manslaughter in the pop star's death. Murray has pleaded not guilty in the case.

A new panel of prospects was on call for Friday morning and questioning could continue Monday if a sufficient pool has not been cleared by then. The judge has said he wants 100 prospects available who have no problems with hardship and no views on their questionnaires extreme enough to require dismissal.

Those who reported for duty Thursday appeared ready for the news delivered to them by Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor: They had been summoned to serve on Los Angeles' biggest trial of the year—the involuntary manslaughter trial of Michael Jackson's doctor.

No one flinched at the announcement. And all indicated they had prior knowledge of the case.

The judge was not surprised.

"We didn't expect you'd been living under a rock for the past several years, or that you made a pit stop from Mars," Pastor said.

Murray sat with his lawyers on one side of a long table and prosecutors on the other in the vast jury assembly room, which was transformed into a courtroom for the first round of a jury selection process that is expected to take two weeks to find a pool of 100 people willing and qualified to serve on the case.

Oprah Winfrey chats on Facebook Live talk show

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey got plenty of 'likes' on Facebook Thursday from fans who tuned in to watch a live online chat with the social networking site.

The TV personality gave a one-hour interview to Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg at the company's Palo Alto, California, headquarters. The chat took place in front of an audience of Facebook employees who cheered and took photos on camera phones when she walked out.

Winfrey covered a variety of topics including how Rosie O'Donnell has done some remodeling to Harpo Studios in Chicago. (O'Donnell will host The Rosie Show for Winfrey's OWN network beginning in October.)

"One of the first things she wanted was...the walls taken down... everybody's out in the open and her offices are dogs and kids and music is playing and there's a candy bar and a cookie bar... ."

Life has not slowed down since wrapping up "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in May.

Winfrey

ONLINE:
http://www.facebook.com/facebooklive
http://www.oprah.com/own

"I think everybody thought I was gonna sit at home and relax... every time I run into people they say "How is it? How's retirement?" First of all I was never intentionally retiring. It's a little more frantic. The days were a little more organized. I feel a little out of body some days."

Winfrey is now focused on developing her OWN television network. She serves as its chairman, CEO and chief creative officer.

"It's a lot harder than I ever imagined. If anybody asks you if you want a network think about that," she joked.

She also said she never felt fear until she decided to launch OWN.

"The fear is getting this right and the fear is whether or not I'm ahead of my time. I fundamentally believe people are yearning for something more but if I look at, if you look at what's on television right now it doesn't look that way. The fear is I hope I'm right."

Viewers tuning in posted comments like, "Oprah, I love listening to you" and "I totally get it." One posted her phone number and asked for a call.

Winfrey responded to a special lightning round of random questions where she shared she likes thin crust pizza over deep dish, Chai tea to coffee and the iPad to actual books or the Kindle.

Winfrey toured the Facebook offices prior to her live chat and brought along employees from O magazine, OWN and Harpo because she believes they can learn from the social media site. "Facebook's goal is to connect everybody in the world, my goal is to connect with people so they see for themselves the greater possibilities of their lives."

Lady Gaga to rock Times Square

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga will rock New York's Times Square on New Year's Eve.

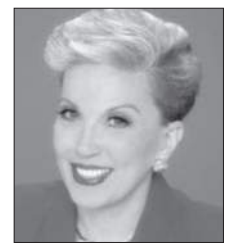
ABC said Thursday that the singer is the featured guest on Dick Clark's annual "New Year's Rockin' Eve" special. Clark will appear along with Ryan Seacrest to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his New Year's show, the annual program already teen-aged before Lady Gaga was even born.

Fergie will host the Los Angeles portion of the show. No other musical guests were announced.

It figures to be a long party. Clark's show takes up three hours of prime-time, breaks for local news, then comes back for more than two and a half hours.

Dad and daughter disagree about her love for soccer

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My dad and I have been arguing over whether I should play soccer. I don't want to because I don't like the coach, the sport or having Dad yell at me for every little mistake I make. He says I'm good at the game and that I love it—but I DON'T. How do I explain it's just not for me without disappointing him? I feel terrible because I have let him down.

RATHER BE A CHEERLEADER

DEAR RATHER: Please don't feel that by not participating in soccer you're letting your father down. Frankly, he has let YOU down. When a parent becomes so emotionally involved with a child's sport activity that he yells, confuses his role as an enthusiastic and supportive parent with that of the coach, and takes the joy out of the sport for the kid, this is more often than not the result. If you enjoy cheerleading, go for it and don't feel guilty. If you have the vitality and athletic ability, you'll be a star.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I dated "Albert"—a wonderful, caring man—for nine months until last week when I ended it because of a false promise. When we first started dating, he offered to fly me wherever he was due to be working. His job requires a lot of travel. It never happened.

Every year around this time he's back home in California to work the harvest at his ranch. We made plans for me to fly there to see him and meet the rest of his family.

A month ago I asked what was going on with the purchase of my plane ticket. I never got an answer, so I asked again two weeks later. Albert made some excuses and said it wasn't a good idea for him to pay for my flight there. After our break-up, he admitted his brother had convinced him it wasn't right for me to fly there at Albert's expense and, if I loved him I'd find a way to pay for it myself.

I'm a single mom. Albert knows my financial status. By no means could I afford a trip at my expense. I feel Albert's family will always influence his decisions and this would affect our relationship. Was this a good reason to break up?

STAYING PUT IN TEXAS

DEAR STAYING PUT: Please don't be so quick to blame Albert's family. He may have been "wonderful and caring," but he wasn't much of a man for not telling you that he had had a change of heart about introducing you to his family, because that's what really happened. As you said, he knows your financial status. And yes, this was a good reason to break it off because, from my point of view, you had no other choice.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Just a quick question regarding airline flying etiquette. What would be the proper way to handle a situation where the flight attendant comes around to serve refreshments and the person next to you is napping? Would it be appropriate to give him a little nudge when the attendant gets to your row, or just order your own and let the person be skipped over?

UP IN THE AIR IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR UP IN THE AIR: Sometimes it's better to let sleeping dogs lie, and this is one of them.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

ARR! LOOK ALIVE, YE SCURVY SCALLIWAGS! THAR'S A FRIGATE TO BOARD!
RUN UP THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES!
PREPARE THE PLANK!
OUR SHIP IS A PLANK.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO WALK IT, WISE GUY!
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

NOTHING WILL MOVE ME FROM THIS SPOT
JIM DAVIS 9-10
CHOCOLATE PUDDING!
OH, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...
I BROUGHT THE SPOT WITH ME
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CAN I GET A POUND OF TURKEY?
SHAVED OR SLICED?
SHAVED. I DON'T LIKE STUBBLE ON MY COLD CUTS.
www.gocomics.com
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

We Need A Retirement Plan.
I've Got One.
REALLY?
Sure. I've Been Socking Away Money For Years!
See? Three Pounds of Pennies And Nickels!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 March of —
6 Snapshot
11 Ebb
12 Summarizes
14 Aviator Earhart
15 Lawrence's territory
16 Go up and down
17 Pollster's find
19 Remiss
20 Teeny bit
22 Org.
23 Apportion
24 Houstonian, e.g.
26 Legislative houses
28 "Mayday!"
30 Robot play
31 Pseudonyms
35 Jeer
39 Hindu princess
40 In medias —
42 Mayberry lad
43 Passbook abbr.
44 Swiss money
46 Tolkien creature
47 Mimosa family member
49 Provider of many voices on "The Simpsons"
51 Trig ratio
52 Gold measures
53 Bet
54 Obliterate

DOWN
1 Lower in rank
2 Fridge's ancestor
3 Brooks or Blanc
4 Tend texts
5 Retail giant
6 Vixen's yokemate
7 Cattle group
8 Goose (Sp.)
9 Pad
10 Narcotic
11 Moroccan city
13 Bluesy instruments
18 Dawn goddess
21 Pastoral tribe of Kenya
23 Mr. Polo
25 Digits (Abbr.)
27 Greek consonants
29 Toothed along the edge
31 36-Down highlights
32 Joust equipment
33 Unbroken
34 Vast expanse
36 La Scala performances
37 Countable
38 Crumbly cheeses
41 Boa, for one
44 Stoolie
45 Despot
48 21st president's monogram
50 Coach Parseghian

Solution time: 27 mins.

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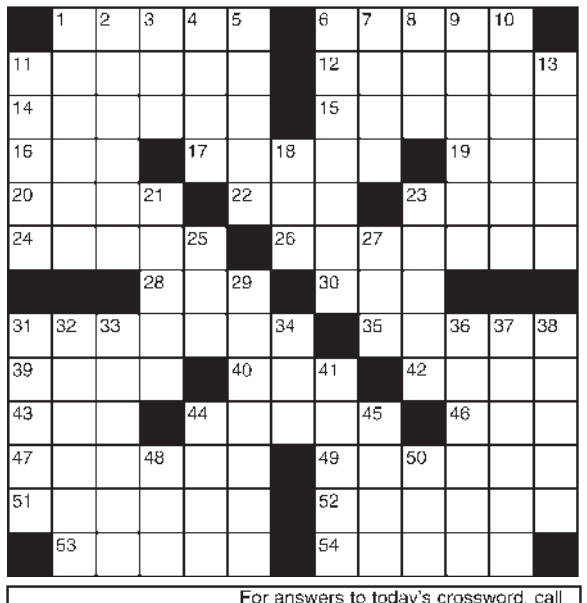
Yesterday's answer 9-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Phillippe, 37; Colin Firth, 51; Amy Irving, 58; Joe Perry, 61.

Happy Birthday: A change of plans will lead you in an interesting new direction. Be open to new experiences and new acquaintances. Let your creative dreams take over; you will realize that you have something to offer that others will pay for. This can be an engaging year for you personally and professionally. Love is highlighted, and promises can be made. Your numbers are 4, 13, 16, 23, 25, 39, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stick to what you know. Discussing matters that are based on assumptions will lead to mistakes that will be difficult to fix. Don't be too quick to jump into something that may be filled with empty promises. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Pull together all your ideas, past and present, and you will come up with something that will work wonders. A new angle or a little tweaking is all that's needed to drum up interest in what you want to pursue. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Not everyone you deal with is looking out for your best interests. You have to put your emotions aside and choose based on facts, not hearsay and what you want to believe. Greater effort should be put into your home, family and surroundings. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can make personal changes that will improve your living situation and ease your stress. Get rid of responsibilities that aren't necessary. An impulsive move will not turn out in your favor. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be tempted to make poor financial choices. Do your homework. A false impression regarding an investment is apparent. A residential move may be in your best interest, but it has to be for the right reason. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You have plenty to look forward to if you take advantage of existing opportunities. Travel, socializing and exploring new interests, places and people will lead to an offer you cannot refuse. Love will be enhanced if you include someone special in your plans. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A social event will help you realize what you have to offer. Don't let someone from your past hold something over you. It's time to free yourself of any debts. Your originality, coupled with your experience, will help you get rid of whatever is holding you back. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't be fooled by an emotional plea to keep you from experiencing something new. You need to get out and participate. Follow through with whatever you feel passionate about, and you will make progress. It's time to make a clean break. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Rethink your strategy, and you will realize you may have had ulterior motives. Before you make a huge mistake that will affect your personal relationships, it is best to take a moment to hash over the good and the bad that you've experienced. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have plenty of options and must look at every possibility before making a move. Changing your home or lifestyle may appear to be difficult, but once you get started, everything will fall into place. Before you start, have your finances in place. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take care of your personal financial business. A partnership with someone you've known a long time can be beneficial as long as you keep things equal. Helping someone will lead to knowledge that will help you make a personal decision. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have to face emotional issues head on. If you don't take care of matters yourself, you will not be dealt with properly. You must raise any issues that you feel are holding you back. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, strong, courageous, creative, original and expressive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7		2	9	3		1	
5	3						8	6
		9				8		
			3		4			
		7				3		
9	1						5	2
	2		9	8	7		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	6	8	1	4	7	9	2	5
5	1	7	6	2	9	4	3	8
9	2	4	5	3	8	1	7	6
8	7	1	4	5	3	2	6	9
2	5	9	7	1	6	3	8	4
4	3	6	9	8	2	7	5	1
6	8	2	3	9	4	5	1	7
1	4	3	8	7	5	6	9	2
7	9	5	2	6	1	8	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ON BEING SINGLE **Solution: 8 letters**

O	F	S	T	Y	N	C	G	J	E	T	A	D	N	B
B	P	E	P	W	A	O	O	M	F	D	A	E	R	W
V	E	P	E	O	A	I	I	N	S	O	T	C	H	O
M	A	N	O	L	N	T	E	S	T	S	C	R	R	R
H	E	R	E	R	I	T	E	V	I	R	O	U	E	G
R	A	A	I	F	T	N	A	L	I	V	O	S	S	S
G	R	B	L	E	I	U	G	N	A	T	P	L	E	R
N	F	I	I	S	T	T	N	S	E	E	C	I	X	E
I	R	I	U	T	R	Y	S	I	C	O	T	A	A	E
T	E	B	N	E	S	P	T	T	T	R	U	I	L	R
S	E	E	A	A	I	E	R	R	E	I	N	S	E	A
I	D	T	L	R	N	A	N	B	A	V	E	P	R	C
X	O	O	I	O	V	C	I	J	E	P	M	S	L	R
E	M	T	L	E	F	L	E	S	O	A	L	U	O	S
H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	T	S	P	Y	Ⓑ	Ⓞ	Ⓢ	Ⓢ

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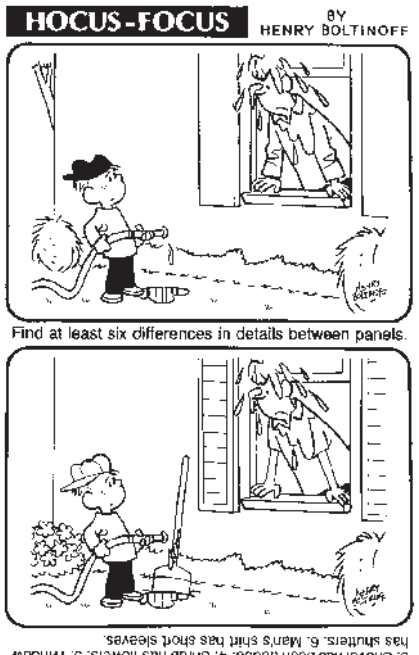
Active, Alone, Benefits, Boss, Business, Career, Club, Control, Date, Enjoy, Existing, Feelings, Finances, Flirt, Focus, Freedom, Goal, Grow, Habits, Happy, Healthy, Invest, Join, Learn, Liberties, Listen, Meet, Opportunities, Pamper, Party, Read, Relax, Renew, Respect, Savor, Self, Soul, Spirit, Spontaneous, Time, Tour, Travel, Treat, Variety, Vision

Yesterday's Answer: Hot Button

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Tree is missing. 2. Roy's cap is different. 3. Shovel has been added. 4. Shrub has flowers. 5. Window has shutters. 6. Man's shirt has short sleeves.

Wishing Well®

8	3	2	7	6	5	2	5	2	6	2	7	2
A	B	P	J	B	A	R	D	O	E	F	O	I
5	4	5	3	7	4	5	6	7	3	5	2	7
A	U	Y	E	B	N	F	C	A	P	O	T	D
5	6	8	5	8	2	6	7	3	2	3	2	8
R	O	B	F	E	A	U	V	R	B	E	L	T
4	8	2	3	5	6	3	2	3	4	5	7	2
C	T	E	P	U	R	A	P	R	A	N	A	A
3	2	6	4	6	8	7	2	6	4	3	2	7
E	R	A	N	G	E	N	T	E	N	D	N	C
2	7	6	7	8	2	4	7	4	8	7	6	4
E	E	O	M	R	R	Y	E	T	L	N	U	I
7	2	6	2	4	8	4	2	8	2	4	8	4
T	S	S	H	M	I	I	I	F	P	N	E	G

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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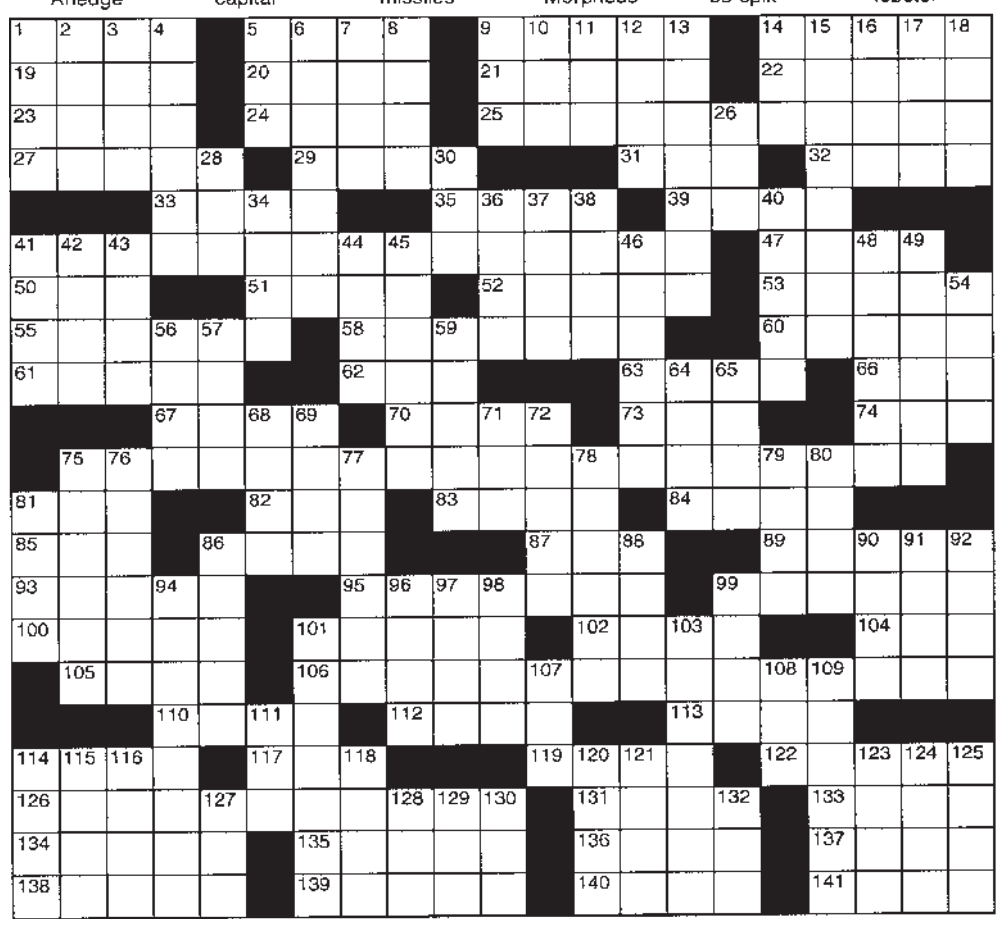
Super Crossword

HORSE SCENTS

ACROSS
1 Stromboli spew
5 "Waterloo" rockers
9 Envelops
14 Gaiters
19 Mideastern muck-a-muck
20 Spooky Stoker
21 Disprove
22 Let
23 General Bradley
24 Rustic tower
25 Start of a remark by 126 Across
27 Athenian sage
29 Indian sectarian
31 Airport abbr.
32 Good-sized
33 Author Jessamyn
35 With 81 Down, '44 chemistry Nobelist
39 Hatch's home
41 Part 2 of remark
47 TV's "The Love —"
50 Santa —, CA
51 "Oh, woe!"
52 TV exec Arledge
53 Citified
55 Like a dachshund
58 Cozy cloth
60 Marten
61 — bear
62 Asian holiday
63 Skilled
66 Scottsboro's st.
67 Rubberneck
70 Morlocks' prey
73 Mexican Mrs.
74 Point
75 Part 3 of remark
81 Crone
82 R-V hookup
83 Head for the clouds
84 Actress Purviance
85 Khan opener?
86 ER exclamation
87 Minify a midi, maybe?
89 Top-drawer
93 Feeling
95 Like a gymnast
99 5 Across' home
100 Michael of "Dynasty"
101 Schell or Shriver
102 European capital
104 Foster's "— Dog Tray"
105 Half-baked?
106 End of remark
110 McGregor of "Train-spotting"
112 Creme — creme
113 Bathday cake?
114 — League
117 Fond du —, WI
119 Metric measure
122 Pulsate
126 Speaker of remark
131 Writer Rendell
133 Autumn implement
134 Boredom
135 Draw forth
136 Exercise aftermath
137 Brute
138 Prepares cherries
139 Hazardous gas
140 — tetra
141 Tide type

DOWN
1 Composer Janacek
2 Bullets, briefly
3 Lab vessel
4 Cupid's missiles
5 Pecs' partners
6 "The — Stomp" ('61 hit)
7 Part of Indonesia
8 Out of control
9 Twisted
10 Rock's — Speed-wagon
11 — Dhabi
12 Purple hue
13 Lawyer's concern
14 Bando of baseball
15 Excess
16 Jai —
17 Haynes or Rundgren
18 Fluctuate
26 "Unforget-table" name
28 Born
30 Torrid
34 Corset part
36 Aquatic bird
37 '82 Jeff Bridges film
38 Hautboy
40 Liplash?
41 Door hardware
42 In the know
43 Julia of "Havana"
44 Float
45 In the arms of Morpheus
46 Loosen the ropes
48 Conductor Claudio
49 Fat stuff
54 Shipshape
56 Unfashion-able eyewear?
57 Wild child
59 Reference volume
64 Soft cheese
65 Arrive at Kennedy
68 "Yo!" at the library
69 Singer James
71 Lennon's lady
72 "My Own Private —" ('91 film)
75 Endangered feline
76 Kampala's country
77 Sheriff's quarry
78 Aftershock
79 Had no doubts
80 Patriot Nathan
81 See 35 Across
86 Creature for taming?
88 Kid's creation?
90 Matinee —
91 Reveal
92 They may be split
94 It's all in your head
96 Angered
97 Location
98 Comic Mort
99 Mediocre
101 Superinten-dent
103 Basutoland, today
107 Acorn, eventually
108 Welcome item?
109 "Silkwood" screenwriter
111 Flagon filler
114 Very long time
115 Flat rate
116 Excellent
118 Musical finale
120 Where to speak Farsi
121 Last name in publish-ing
123 Frenzy
124 Creole veggie
125 Freeway sound
127 "Platoon" extras
128 "Father Knows Best" kid
129 Author Umberto
130 Actor Cariou
132 Lady lobster



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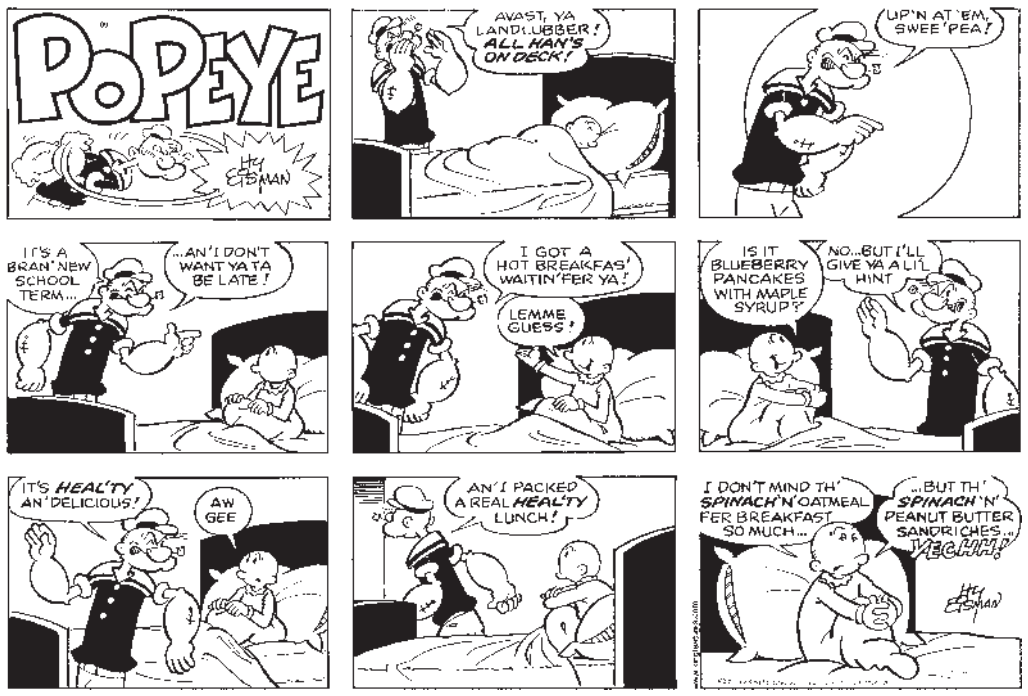
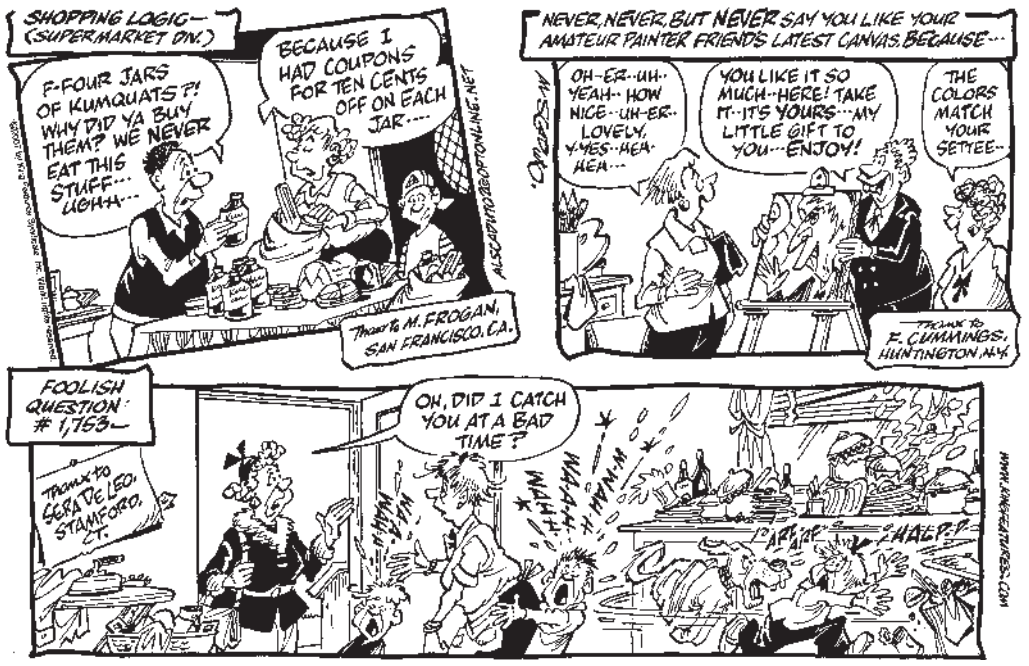
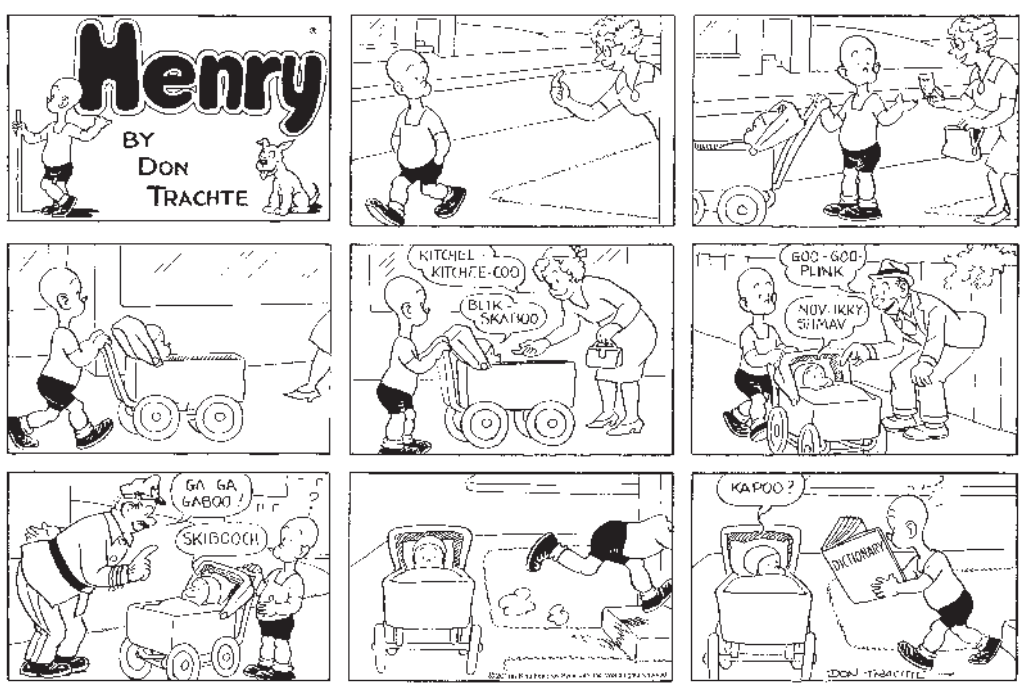

POPEYE
HY EISMAN
AVAST, YA LANDLUBBER! ALL HAN'S ON DECK!
UP'N AT 'EM, SWEE'PEA!
IT'S A BRAN' NEW SCHOOL TERM...
...AN' I DON'T WANT YA TA BE LATE!
I GOT A HOT BREAKFAS' WAITIN' FER YA!
LEMME GUESS!
IS IT BLUEBERRY PANCAKES WITH MAPLE SYRUP?
NO...BUT I'LL GIVE YA A LIL HINT
IT'S HEAL'TY AN' DELICIOUS!
AW GEE
AN' I PACKED A REAL HEALTY LUNCH!
I DON'T MIND TH' SPINACH'N'OATMEAL FER BREAKFAST SO MUCH...
...BUT TH' SPINACH'N' PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICHES... YECCH!!

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


SHOPPING LOGIC— (SUPERMARKET DIV.)
F-FOUR JARS OF KUMQUATS?! WHY DID YA BUY THEM? WE NEVER EAT THIS STUFF... UGH-H...
BECAUSE I HAD COUPONS FOR TEN CENTS OFF ON EACH JAR...
Thanx to M. FROGAN, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
NEVER, NEVER, BUT NEVER SAY YOU LIKE YOUR AMATEUR PAINTER FRIEND'S LATEST CANVAS. BECAUSE...
OH-ER-UH-YEAH-HOW NICE-UH-ER-LOVELY, Y-YES-HEA-HEA...
YOU LIKE IT SO MUCH-HERE! TAKE IT-IT'S YOURS-MY LITTLE GIFT TO YOU-ENJOY!
THE COLORS MATCH YOUR SETTEE...
Thanx to F. CUMMINGS, HUNTINGTON, N.Y.
FOOLISH QUESTION #1,753—
Thanx to SERA DE LEO, STAMFORD, CT.
OH, DID I CATCH YOU AT A BAD TIME?
HALP!!



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Most of the Sierra Madre mountains are located in what country?
2. MATH: What term is used to describe an irrational number such as pi?
3. HISTORY: Before the start of the Civil War, in what city was the Confederacy's provisional constitution adopted?
4. ART: What was artist Picasso's first name?
5. TELEVISION: What was the Bionic Woman's name?
6. OPERA: Who composed the opera "The Magic Flute"?
7. SCIENCE: What is the most abundant element in the known universe?
8. LANGUAGE: What does the acronym GOP stand for?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the book "The Naked and the Dead"?
10. MUSIC: What does the musical term "allegro" mean?

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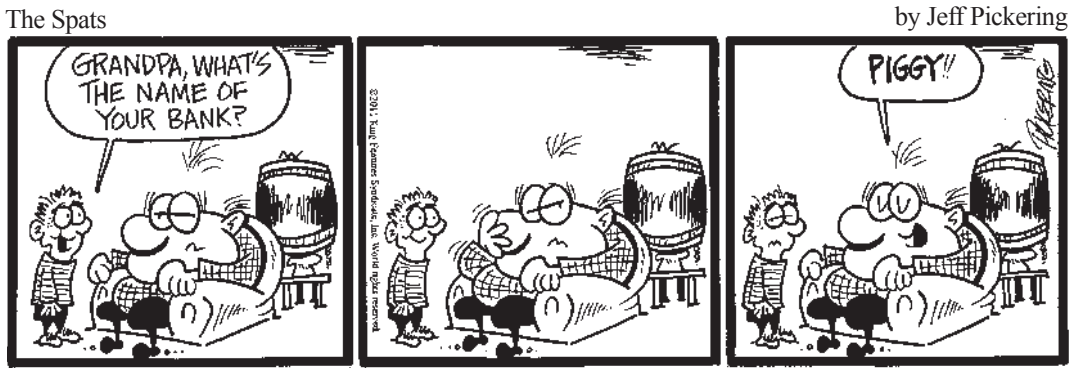
Answers
1. Mexico
2. Transcendental
3. Montgomery, Ala.
4. Pablo
5. Jaime Sommers
6. Mozart
7. Hydrogen
8. Grand Old Party
9. Norman Mailer
10. Lively and fast

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

your thaw mouth

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- Must be computer proficient
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- Driver's license / Transportation
- Excellent spoken and written English communication skills
- Retail experience – desirable
- Ability to meet weekly deadlines/monthly goals

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WHATZIT Solution: Melt in your mouth

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Minor wins doubles in Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011
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Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts
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Rodgers throws 3 TDs, Packers outlast Saints

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—A Super Bowl hangover and the NFL lockout weren't about to slow down Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers. The New Orleans Saints just couldn't keep up.

Rodgers came out on top in a memorable opening-night duel with Drew Brees, and the Packers made a goal-line stand on the final play of the game to beat the Saints 42-34 on Thursday night.

With the Saints on the 1-yard line, Clay Matthews and safety Morgan Burnett led a swarm of Packers defenders who stopped Saints rookie running back Mark Ingram short of the goal line.

"It's not what you envision," Matthews said. "Obviously, you'd love to have a blowout, but I think it represents everything that we preach, which is finishing games. And it comes down to the very last play—we win, or they have an opportunity to tie it up. I think it's fantastic to overcome that adversity, get the stop that we needed and get off the field with the victory."

Rodgers and Brees had big games, but Packers rookie Randall Cobb stole the show.

Cobb, a second-round draft pick out of Kentucky, caught a touchdown from Rodgers and ran a kickoff back 108 yards for a score in the third quarter—tying an NFL record for the longest kickoff return in history.

In the wake of a rules change designed to promote touchbacks, Cobb just decided to run one back from deep in the end zone.

"It was amazing," Cobb said. "The feeling of being in Lambeau Field and just having all of the guys around me coming off of the Super Bowl and just trying to do anything I can to contribute, and I certainly tried to make the most of my opportunities tonight."

AP

Green Bay Packers' Randall Cobb (18) celebrates with fans after a 108-yard touchdown run on a kickoff during the second half of an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, in Green Bay, Wis.

Rodgers threw for 312 yards and three touchdowns.

"It's a good night for us," Rodgers said. "I felt good about the way that I was throwing the ball. Missed a couple I probably could have hit."

Brees threw for 419 yards and three touchdowns, including a late touchdown to Jimmy Graham that cut the lead to 8 with 2:15 left.

After a Green Bay punt, Brees marched the Saints to the Packers 9-yard line and spiked the ball with 3 seconds left. Green Bay's A.J. Hawk was called for pass interference and the ball was placed at the 1.

Led by Matthews and Burnett, the Packers defense swarmed Saints first-round rookie running back Mark Ingram short of the goal line and the game was over.

"You've got to get a yard," Ingram said. "It's goal line to win the game, got to get a yard."

It was a big night for Donald Driver, who tied James Lofton's Packers franchise mark for career yards receiving with 9,656.

Rodgers wanted to get him the record at home.

"We tried to get him the ball again, we just didn't have an opportunity," Rodgers said.

The Packers' most impressive scoring play of the night came courtesy of Cobb, who fielded the ball deep in the Packers' end zone in the third quarter but took it out anyway. Cobb spun off a tackling attempt by the Saints' Leigh Torrence, put his right hand down to keep his balance, then rambled to the end zone.

Cobb's 108-yard return tied an NFL record set by New England's Ellis Hobbs in September 2007. It also was the Packers' first kickoff return for a touchdown since Allen Rossum in 2000.

Cobb's big return gave the Packers a 35-20 lead, but the game wasn't over. Darren Sproles answered with a long kickoff return of his own, and Brees drove the Saints for a 29-yard touchdown to Devery Henderson.

The Saints forced a punt and marched to the Packers' 7-yard line, but failed on a fourth-down conversion attempt and gave the ball back to the Packers.

Green Bay drove again, and Rodgers handed the ball to John Kuhn on third-and-goal for a 1-yard touchdown and a 42-27 lead early in the fourth quarter. The Packers' defensive struggles made for some nervous late moments, but they came through when they had to.

If Thursday's game was a referendum on the importance of player-led team workouts during the lockout, the results are in: The workouts Brees organized over the summer weren't enough to help the Saints take down the champions, and the Packers' decision not to get together as a team certainly didn't seem to hurt them.

"That was a good start for us," Rodgers joked. "But I've just got to ask myself, `What would have happened if we had had offseason workouts?'"

For the NFL, Thursday's opener was a chance to stamp out any lingering memories of a tumultuous offseason filled with tense and ugly—but ultimately successful—labor negotiations.

With a massive stage engulfing a portion of the Lambeau Field parking lot for a pregame concert, Thursday night certainly felt like a big game had come to the NFL's smallest market. Going into the game, Greg Jennings compared it to a "mini Super Bowl."

But there wasn't anything small about the Packers' performance, proving once again that they were ready for the bright lights and a tough opponent.

Roddick's court unplayable; final moved to Monday

NEW YORK (AP)—At one point, Andy Roddick looked up and saw a fan scaling a chain-link fence behind tiny Court 13, hoping to catch a peek of the 2003 U.S. Open champion's victory Thursday.

At another point, a baby's loud cries provided a distraction at the 584-seat venue.

"At least," Roddick deadpanned later, "there wasn't a baby crying on the fence."

It was that sort of day at this most unusual U.S. Open.

Rain finally gave way to sun in the morning, but chaos still managed to reign. A crack near a baseline in the tournament's second-biggest stadium let water seep through, halting Roddick's already twice-delayed match against David Ferrer until they were moved to a court often used by juniors.

And because of showers earlier this week, the U.S. Tennis Association extended the tournament, delaying the men's final by 24 hours to Monday at 4 p.m. EDT. The women's final was shifted from Saturday night to Sunday at 4 p.m.

Amid all of Thursday's goings-on—which also included complaints about the schedule both before and after it was changed; talk by Roddick and others about forming a union; and treatment by a trainer for both No. 1 Novak Djokovic and his opponent, who eventually quit, then apologized to Djokovic—at least there was plenty of tennis played, quite a change from Tuesday's total washout and Wednesday's 15 minutes of action.

Roddick, defending champion Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray and John Isner all won to reach the quarterfinals. On the other side of the men's draw, Djokovic and Roger Federer set up a semifinal showdown; it's the fifth consecutive year they'll meet at the U.S. Open and a rematch from this year's French Open, where Federer handed Djokovic one of his two losses in 2011. Serena Williams, Caroline Wozniacki, Sam Stosur and Angelique Kerber filled the four spots in the women's semifinals.

Given the delays, the 21st-seeded Roddick was eager to get going against the fifth-seeded Ferrer somewhere—anywhere, really.

They got in less than 10 minutes Thursday before Roddick pointed out a damp spot in Louis Armstrong Stadium that made it too dangerous to play. He and Ferrer headed back to the locker room while workers spent an hour trying to dry the area. At 12:30 p.m., the players returned with tournament referee Brian Earley to inspect the area.

Roddick pointed out that the spot still was wet and said to Earley, "Can you tell us why you brought us out here? ... How hard is it to not see water? ... What are we doing here?"

As he walked to the sideline, Roddick shook his head and said: "I'm baffled right now. Absolutely baffled." He shoved his racket in his bag and walked off the court, as some fans jeered.

Roddick, Ferrer and Earley then spoke in a hallway of 10,103-seat Armstrong stadium.

"Put us on 13. Thirteen's open. Let's go play. I don't care where we play," Roddick said.

Within minutes, the decision was made to switch courts, sending fans running and pushing their ways over to the metal bleachers at Court 13, and the match eventually resumed a little before 1 p.m.

Not much more than two hours later, Roddick was high-fiving front-row spectators after wrapping up his 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory.

He hadn't played anywhere at Flushing Meadows other than the main court, Arthur Ashe Stadium, since 2002, a run of 39 consecutive U.S. Open matches there.

On Thursday, he found himself on a court where he last played singles in 1999, losing a first-round junior match.

"I didn't think Court 13 was in my future. ... But extenuating circumstances, I guess," Roddick said.

"I thought the atmosphere was great. People packed in," added Roddick, who will play Nadal next. "I'd rather play a smaller court and have it packed, than playing a bigger court and have it a quarter full."

Elsewhere, No. 2-seeded Nadal beat 68th-ranked Gilles Muller of Luxembourg 7-6 (1), 6-1, 6-2 in Ashe; No. 4 Murray eliminated 84th-ranked Donald Young of the United States 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 in the Grandstand; and No. 28 Isner got past No. 12 Gilles Simon of France 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4) on Court 17.

Murray plays Isner, who reached the first Grand Slam quarterfinal of his career.

In the night's last match—which was interrupted by rain for 1 1/2 hours in the first set—Federer beat No. 11 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 to reach the U.S. Open semifinals for the eighth year in a row. Five of Federer's 16 Grand Slam titles came in New York.

At Wimbledon in late June, Tsonga upset Federer in the quarterfinals after dropping the first two sets. Until that loss, Federer was 178-0 when taking a two-set lead in a Grand Slam match. Federer did not let Tsonga get back into Thursday's rematch, saving a key break point at 2-2 in the third set, then breaking in the next-to-last game when Tsonga double-faulted.

"It's true, the Wimbledon match does come back into your mind, especially when he's got break point in the third. ... But I was able to come out of that one," Federer said.

He is 3-1 against Djokovic at Flushing Meadows. Plus, Federer ended Djokovic's 43-match winning streak by beating him in a thrilling French Open semifinal this year.

Djokovic reached his sixth consecutive major semifinal and improved to 62-2 this season, advancing when his opponent, No. 20 Janko Tipsarevic, stopped playing while trailing 7-6 (2), 6-7 (3), 6-0, 3-0. Tipsarevic had his left hamstring bandaged by a trainer at 5-0 in the third set.

Djokovic needed his own visit from the trainer for treatment on a bloody left big toe after sliding to get to a drop shot in the fourth set's opening game. They're good friends and Davis Cup teammates, and they met for a long hug at the net when Tipsarevic conceded; he said he told Djokovic he was sorry for stopping.

In the women's quarterfinals, 13-time major champion Williams overcame some shaky serving early to beat No. 17 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 7-5, 6-1 and improve to 17-0 on hard courts this season.

"I just kept losing serve in the beginning. Very weird," said Williams, whose older sister Venus watched from the stands.

Jones, Braves sweep Mets in doubleheader

NEW YORK (AP)—Julio Teheran earned his first big league win as the Atlanta Braves used a lineup with Chipper Jones as the No. 2 hitter for the first time in 15 years to beat the New York Mets 5-1 Thursday and complete a sweep of a doubleheader made necessary by the threat of Hurricane Irene.

Jones had a sacrifice fly and RBI double in the nightcap and a solo homer and a double in the opener, a 6-5 victory for Atlanta. The Braves were making a quick stop in New York to play two games postponed Aug. 27-28 after being handed their first three-game sweep of the season, by the Phillies.

The Braves next head to St. Louis for a crucial series with the team they lead in the wild-card race by 7 1/2 games. Only several hundred fans were on hand to see the start of the twinbill at 4:10 p.m. A few thousand more sat through a misty rain in the nightcap, though the announced attendance was 25,953.

AP

New York Mets catcher Josh Thole watches Atlanta Braves' Chipper Jones hit an RBI double in the ninth inning of the second game of a baseball doubleheader on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, at Citi Field in New York.

Dodgers 7, Nationals 4

In Washington, Tony Gwynn hit a tie-breaking double in the ninth inning as Los Angeles beat Washington in the first game of a doubleheader on Thursday.

Gwynn drove in Jerry Sands and Rod Barajas with a long double to center off Drew Storen (6-3). Dee Gordon added a run-scoring single—setting a career high with his fourth hit of the game.

Mike MacDougal (3-1), the Dodgers' sixth pitcher, worked a scoreless eighth for the win. Javy Guerra pitched the ninth for his 16th save. Six Los Angeles relievers held Washington hitless over the last 6 1-3 innings.

The second game of the doubleheader was later rained out.

Phillies 7, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Cole Hamels pitched a four-hitter and Hunter Pence's triple keyed a six-run sixth inning as Philadelphia beat Milwaukee.

Hamels (14-7) gave up solo home runs to Yuniesky Betancourt and Corey Hart, but kept Milwaukee from mounting any big innings in a game between two best teams in the National League.

The Phillies managed only one hit off Chris Narveson (10-7) the first 5 2-3 innings, but then broke through for six runs by getting seven consecutive batters on base to chase the Milwaukee starter in the sixth. Philadelphia had 11 of its 12 hits in the final 3 1-3 innings to win its fourth straight.

Pence also had a run-scoring double in the ninth and finished with three RBIs.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 1

In Phoenix, Ian Kennedy struck out a season-high 11 batters over seven-plus innings for his National League-leading 19th win as Arizona beat San Diego.

Kennedy (19-4) scattered seven hits and did not walk a batter over 7 2-3 innings. The right-hander joined Detroit's Justin Verlander and New York Yankees ace C.C. Sabathia as the majors' only 19-game winners.

J.J. Putz pitched the ninth for his 38th save.

Justin Upton hit his career-best 29th home run for the Diamondbacks, who won for the 14th time in 16 games to open a 71/2-game lead over San Francisco in the NL West.

Corey Luebke (5-9) allowed two runs and three hits over 5 2-3 innings. He walked four and struck out nine.

Orioles 5, Yankees 4

In Baltimore, Robert Andino singled home the winning run in the 10th inning after leveling it in the eighth as the Baltimore Orioles rallied to beat the New York Yankees.

Vladimir Guerrero homered, doubled twice and scored two runs for the Orioles, who celebrated their second straight extra-inning win over the Yankees by mobbing Andino at second base.

In the 10th, Nolan Reimold got an infield hit off Scott Proctor (0-1) with one out and advanced on a walk. Andino then hit a grounder inside third base that got Reimold home without a throw.

Clay Rapada (1-0) retired the only batter he faced in the 10th.

Blue Jays 7, Red Sox 4

In Toronto, Ricky Romero won for the seventh time in nine starts and J.P. Arencibia hit a three-run homer as Torfonto beat Boston.

Edwin Encarnacion and Eric Thames added solo shots as the Blue Jays won back-to-back games for the first time since Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 at Baltimore.

Rookie David Cooper went 3 for 4 and had two RBIs as Toronto evened its record at 72-72.

Boston lost for the fourth time in five games and failed to gain ground on the first place New York Yankees, who lost 5-4 in 10 innings to Baltimore earlier in the day. The Red Sox are 2 1/2 games behind New York with 19 left to play.

Romero (14-10) came in 2-6 with an 8.08 ERA in 11 career starts against the Red Sox, including an 0-3 record and 10.62 ERA in five home starts. But the left-hander turned his luck around in this one, allowing three runs and five hits in 6 2-3 innings.

White Sox 8, Indians 1

In Chicago, Brent Morel hit two homers and Paul Konerko had a grand slam to lift Chicago to a victory over Cleveland.

Morel hit a solo shot off Indians starter David Huff (2-4) in the third and a three-run homer off Frank Herrmann in the seventh—both on the first pitch. It was Morel's first career multi-homer game and his four RBIs were a career-high.

Konerko's 10th career grand slam tied Robin Ventura's White Sox record and capped Chicago's seven-run seventh.

Gavin Floyd struck out four and held Cleveland to one run and five hits in 5 2-3 innings. Matt Thornton (1-4) retired all four batters he faced, striking out three.

Mariners 4, Royals 1

In Seattle, Justin Smoak hit his first home run in nearly three months, a two-run shot in the sixth inning, to help Seattle beat Kansas City.

Smoak hit a 1-1 fastball from Luke Hochevar (10-11) into the right-field seats for his 13th, but first since June 12. He had gone 48 games between home runs.

Jason Vargas (8-13) picked up the victory, his first since Aug. 10. He worked six innings, allowing four hits and one run. Jamey Wright, Tom Wilhelmsen each worked a hitless inning.

Brandon League had a little trouble getting out of the ninth. He took a two-out line drive from Mike Moustakas off his left leg, with Moustakas reaching. Shortstop Brendan Ryan bobbled a Johnny Giavotella ground ball.

League got Salvador Perez to ground out to end the game and earn his 34th save in 39 opportunities.

NBA owners, union meet again at critical time

NEW YORK (AP)—NBA Commissioner David Stern, union president Derek Fisher and their top advisers are spending more time talking about a new labor deal.

Next week, they'll find out if they can make progress in a bigger group.

With negotiations at what Stern said is "getting to be an important time," the two sides met for the second consecutive day on Thursday, again for about 5 1/2 hours. They'll return to the bargaining table Tuesday, this time with more players and owners, to try and find a way to end the league's lockout and save the 2011-12 season.

Though Stern and leaders from the players' association have said they like working in small numbers, the commissioner said they think it's "a good idea to have larger group meetings at this point."

Fisher, a guard for the Lakers, agreed.

"At some point, before you can try and make any attempt at any large progress, you have to involve all the respective members that are ultimately going to make the decisions, so we felt it was best to try to do that at this time and Tuesday we'll give (it) a shot," he said.

Stern said there was nothing yet to show the larger groups, which would include members of the owners' labor relations committee and the union's executive committee. The commissioner also would not offer any insight into what it meant that the number of attendees would be increasing, after all the meetings since the lockout began July 1 included just the leadership from each side.

"I don't really know that it's positive or negative, I just think it's time to bring the parties into the room who are ultimately responsible for either making a deal or deciding that there shouldn't be a deal," Stern said.

The two sides could again meet for consecutive days next week in New York, then both will update their members on the state of the talks next Thursday—not long before a decision would have to be made if any changes in the NBA calendar are in order.

Owners will meet Thursday in Dallas. Fisher said the union will speak to players in Las Vegas, where 40 are slated to play in a league being run at the Impact Basketball Academy.

Stern said no vote would be taken at his meeting, nor would any decisions need to be made by then. But there should be a clearer picture of whether a full season remains possible at that point.

"I suspect that by next Thursday, we'll have had more of an opportunity, in particular in the larger group, to continue to exchange ideas," Fisher said. "I do think there will be an effort at least from our part, to have some type of feeling about where this is going by the time we go and talk to our players on Thursday in Las Vegas. I can't assume that's what Commissioner Stern and the league is going to do, but it's a fair assumption.

"So I don't view that as a deadline, I don't view that as a threat of any kind that things have to be figured out by Thursday, but I would assume there will be information shared to the respective parties by then."

Cancelations during the 1998-99 lockout didn't start until Sept. 24, when the opening of training camps scheduled for Oct. 5 were called off. Camps would likely open Oct. 3 this year.

The talks Thursday again consisted of nine people: Stern, Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver, San Antonio Spurs owner Peter Holt, who heads the labor relations committee, and NBA senior vice president and deputy general counsel Dan Rube from the league side. The union negotiators were Fisher, executive vice president Billy Hunter, attorneys Jeffrey Kessler and Ron Klempner, and economist Kevin Murphy.

The sides said after Wednesday's meeting that talks could continue into Friday if they were going well, but Stern said Thursday they preferred to wait until next week to allow for the members to travel to New York.

Neither side is hinting if progress is being made to end the work stoppage, saying they agreed to keep details private. But after a six-hour meeting last week, the frequency of their talks is being viewed as a positive after they held only two sessions in the first two months of the lockout that began July 1.

There appears to be disagreement on whether new proposals have been made—Fisher said there haven't been, Silver said Thursday there have—but otherwise there has been no indication that talks are going poorly since they resumed after nearly a month break following a fruitless Aug. 1 session.

But players already have been asked to accept an 8 percent pay cut in the first year of a new deal, changes to the salary cap structure and the maximum length of contracts, all obstacles to an agreement being reached.

Fisher said the talks have been "engaging" and "active," before adding, "but we still haven't found that place where we can come out and say, 'here's where we are and progress is being made.'"

"But there's an understanding that we have constituents to answer to. We're trying our best to get a deal done. Right now it isn't there yet, but we'll keep at it."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	55	.613	–
Boston	85	58	.594	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	78	64	.549	9
Toronto	72	72	.500	16
Baltimore	57	85	.401	30

Central Division

Detroit	81	62	.566	–
Chicago	72	70	.507	8 1/2
Cleveland	70	71	.496	10
Kansas City	60	85	.414	22
Minnesota	59	84	.413	22

West Division

Texas	81	63	.563	–
Los Angeles	78	65	.545	2 1/2
Oakland	65	78	.455	15 1/2
Seattle	60	83	.420	20 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	92	48	.657	–
Atlanta	84	60	.583	10
New York	70	73	.490	23 1/2
Washington	65	76	.461	27 1/2
Florida	63	79	.444	30

Central Division

Milwaukee	85	60	.586	–
St. Louis	76	67	.531	8
Cincinnati	70	73	.490	14
Pittsburgh	66	77	.462	18
Chicago	62	81	.434	22
Houston	48	95	.336	36

West Division

Arizona	83	61	.576	–
San Francisco	75	68	.524	7 1/2
Los Angeles	70	72	.493	12
Colorado	67	76	.469	15 1/2
San Diego	62	82	.431	21

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Dodgers 7, Washington 4, 1st game
L.A. Dodgers at Washington, 2nd game, ppd., rain
Atlanta 6, N.Y. Mets 5, 1st game
Atlanta 5, N.Y. Mets 1, 2nd game
Philadelphia 7, Milwaukee 2
Arizona 4, San Diego 1
Baltimore 5, N.Y. Yankees 4, 10 innings
Toronto 7, Boston 4
Chicago White Sox 8, Cleveland 1
Seattle 4, Kansas City 1

Docomo Hustlers, Shark Attack at helm

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Utopia Bar's Docomo Hustlers and Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack are the current frontrunners of their respective divisions after Tuesday's matches in the Saipan Billiards Association's 2011 Budweiser Summer/Fall 8-Ball League.

Hustlers defeated Joe's Bar's Fotten Palau (3-11), 6-1, at home to improve their win-loss record to 12-2. They now hold a three-game lead over Jonny's IT&E Voyagers in the Agingan Division.

IT&E Voyagers (9-5), meanwhile tried to keep pace with a 6-1 victory over sister-team Home Boyz Five (6-8) at home.

Meanwhile, third-ranked IT&E Incredibles (8-6) snuck past VFW Post 3457's X-Tream (4-10), 4-3, at home in Sand's Bar's and improved its slate to 8-6.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jonny's Team SCS rallied against sister-team Crazy 8, 4-3, in a home match last Tuesday to keep third place in the Obyan Division of the Saipan Billiards Association-2011 Budweiser Summer/Fall 8-Ball League.

After winning the first two singles games, IT&E Incredibles dropped three in a row before sweeping both double matches to steal the win. Notably, IT&E Voyagers' Rolly Villanueva ran the rack twice.

Shark Attack, meanwhile, routed 19th Hole Bar's Poksu (6-8), 6-1, on the road, and improved its card to 11-3 for a two-game lead in the Obyan Division.

D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Pirata (9-5), for its part, jumped all the way to second place after dominating 19th Hole's Titans (3-11), 6-1, at home.

Jonny's Team SCS (8-6) then edged sister-team Crazy 8 (5-9), 4-3, at home. SCS won three of the five singles games and swept the final doubles match to secure the victory.

Shark Attack's Patrick Taitano ran the rack and Pirata's Dave Maratita sank the 8-ball off the break in their respective matchups.

MASTERS

From Page 28

with 18 markers, Jun Abedes and Jack Palacios chipped in 16 each, Junior Renguul contributed 15, and Leo Ruluked had 10.

Palacios drilled eight of his total points in the opening canto, lifting PIAHI to a 24-20 lead. MDX, which played without spitfire Martine Moreno, managed to stay in the game in the first period behind the three-point shooting of James Abuy and Ferdie Tobias, who had two triples apiece.

However, things started to fall apart for MDX in the second canto when only Tobias scored more than two field goals for Armatech. VisMinda outgunned MDX in the second quarter, 26-14, turning a four-point lead to a big 50-34 halftime advantage. Five VisMinda players tallied at least four points each in the second-quarter breakaway,

VisMinda widened the gap further at the end of the third, 73-52, as the team continued to draw contributions from every player it fielded in the game. MDX failed to make headway in the third despite getting back-to-back triples from Ariel Jinang at the end of that canto, as Abuy went cold anew, while Tobias had only two field goals.

Abuy, who finished with a game-high 21 points, tried to redeem himself in the payoff canto, nailing six triples, but MDX still fell short, as Lizama and Abedes made game-saving baskets for VisMinda.

VisMinda/PIAHI 92 – Lizama 18, Abedes 16, Palacios 16, Renguul 15, Ruluked 10, Gabaldon 7, Manipon 6.

MDX/Armatech 85 – Abuy 21, Tobias 18, Berline 13, Montano 9, Malasarte 6, Jinang 6, Banatasa 4, Trajano 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-20, 50-34, 73-52. 92-85.

VISMINDA

From Page 28

to feed Manalo, who muffed his first attempt. Marlon De Dios took the offensive board, but also faltered on his shot. Fortunately for Satbahi, Manalo collared another offensive board and this time made the basket.

Mobil regained the lead, 78-77, on its third offensive attempt with Ron Gamboa hitting a baseline jumper off an assist from Estolas, with 34.7 seconds to go in the match. Gyles Ruluked and Estolas earlier missed on their shots, but the former took the long rebound and found Gamboa on the baseline for the short jumper.

VisMinda sued for time and when game resumed, Manalo found himself on the right place at the right time for an undergoal stab. The play started with Rolly Paraiso driving toward the baseline and spinning, but after turning he found himself too deep under the basket with a Mobil player defending him well. Paraiso then had the presence of mind to hand off the leather to Manalo, who was loitering at the paint and canned his second straight basket for VisMinda's 79-78 advantage.

With 23 seconds left in the game, Mobil called timeout to map out a play, which eventually didn't work as Estolas missed on his drive against two VisMinda defenders. Aquino then took the rebound and drew a foul from Gil Gapor. Aquino calmly sank the pair of free throws, upping VisMinda's lead to three, 81-78, with 14.9 seconds remaining in the match.

Mobil used its last timeout and coach Marvin Deocares instructed his players to attempt from downtown to send the game into overtime. However, VisMinda defenders did a good job guarding Mobil's shooter to keep the lead and the win. Paraiso fought off a screen for Estolas from the right key, forcing the Mobil guard to swing the ball to Gamboa. Gamboa, who hit three triples in the third period and one in the fourth, was also well covered and opted to kick the ball out to Ruluked. De Dios slightly deflected the pass, but Gamboa regained the loose ball and decided to throw it to Gapor on the baseline instead of pulling up for a shot. Gapor failed to handle the feed and the ball went out of the baseline, allowing VisMinda to seal the win as only .09 of a second was left in the match.

VisMinda took the victory despite a lethargic first quarter, which ended with Mobil on top, 22-13. Mobil made it a 24-13 count in the opening minute of second canto, before Aquino, De Dios, and Paraiso teamed up in VisMinda's 29-10 windup to grab the driver's seat at the break, 42-34.

Mobil, which was held to three field goals in the second canto, started the third with a 10-0 blast to regain the lead, which it kept after three quarters, 62-57. Gamboa anchored Mobil's attack in the third quarter, scoring 11 points off three treys.

Gamboa started the fourth with another triple and Gapor nailed a layup for Mobil's double-digit lead, 67-57. However, Mobil folded up in the end, while VisMinda found the right combination in the homestretch to complete the comeback.

Paraiso top-scored for VisMnda with 17, while four other teammates also finished in double figures. Gamboa led all scores with 24, while Gapor added 10 and was only the second Mobil player to score in double digits. Estolas, who averaged 25.75 points in their first four games, was held to nine markers, five of them coming from the foul line, while Ruluked had only five, as he had limited touches in the second half.

VisMinda/Satbahi 81 – Paraiso 17, Mangali 12, Barbo 12, De Dios 11, Aquino Santos 7, Manalo 6, Inos 3, Sison 3.

Bayani/Mobil 78 – Gamboa 24, Gapor 10, Estolas 9, De Guzman 8, Lizama 7, Ruluked 5, Fernando 5, Moises 5, Factor 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-22, 42-34, 57-62, 81-78.

CNMI

From Page 28

for last, relieving Cepeda in the fourth inning and shutting out the 2003 Pacific Games champion.

With Jones on the mound, Lizama, Omar, Juan Maratita, and Byron Kaipat took care of the batting business for the CNMI with their consistent hitting in the remaining five innings.

The CNMI sluggers completed the come-from-behind win and received their much-deserved gold medal during the awards ceremony at the Robinson Baseball Field in Mont-Dore

"The CNMI's gold medal win is a terrific accomplishment, one that everyone in the CNMI can be proud of. It is the result of all of the hard work and sacrifices that our team put in. Their never-say-die attitude is an inspiration. Thanks to everyone who supported Team CNMI," chef de mission and NMASA president Michael White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Closing ceremony

Rachel Abrams will conclude the CNMI's bid in the Games today when she competes in the long jump at 9am (8am Saipan time).

A few more events are scheduled today and upon completion, the closing ceremony will start at 5pm. At the closing rites, New Caledonia is expected to turn over the Games flag to 2015 host Papua New Guinea.

At the penultimate day of the two-week Games, New Caledonia is way past the century mark in the gold medal standings with its 113 gold medals. The host has also collared 99 silver and 56 bronze to win the overall championship convincingly. Tahiti is a far second with its 57-41-39 gold-silver-bronze tally, while PNG (47-24-46) is at third.

As of 7pm yesterday, only the CNMI and the Federated States of Micronesia have won gold medals for Micronesia.

CELL PRO

From Page 28

miracle rally.

Itaas led Cell Pro with 27 points, while Fresco's Edwin Camacho scrambled for a game-high 28.

In Wednesday's second game, MBI beat Inchcape black and blue, 72-60.

Inchcape actually were in control early as Gilbert Miranda's five points in the opening eight minutes staked his team to a 17-13 after the opening quarter.

It, however, was short lived as MBI shot ahead, 34-24, in the second quarter with Leo Galarse leading the way with nine points, including a couple of 3-pointers.

Inchcape came out of the halftime break much more physical, but MBI maintained a 49-42 margin thanks largely to Galarse, who again strung together nine points in the third quarter.

Raymark Castro fired 11 points in Inchcape's fourth quarter rally, but Galarse again scored nine points to complement teammate Marvin Achas's six points in the final quarter and help seal the deal.

Galarse shot a game-high 27 points, while Castro turned in 19 in Inchcape's loss.

In a make-up match originally scheduled last Sunday, Sherwin Williams fended off a late charge by NBM to win, 59-56.

Sherwin Williams catapulted ahead, 19-6, in the opening period as Jun Tabora and Dado Vistal combined for 15 points.

The count shifted to 29-18 at the pause as both teams traded baskets in the second quarter before the game was called off for another day.

Action picked up Wednesday at the start of the second half, and NBM battled back to trim the deficit to six points, 38-44, heading into the final canto.

NBM's Shane Metran led the charge with eight points with Jessie Mina helping out with a pair of treys.

Sherwin Williams continued to struggle in the fourth quarter, but somehow managed to come together at the end. The team eventually secured the victory with four free throws in the final minutes.

Tabora finished with a game-high 21 points, while Metran turned in 14 in the loss.

First Game

Cell Pro 83 – Itaas 27, Ritual 22, Norita 14, Hernandez 14, Rotap 6, Herrera 4, Tibayan 2.

Fresco 71 – Camacho 28, Mabini 19, Zhe 7, Concepcion 5, Hernaez 4, Wodson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-16, 42-34, 64-54, 83-71.

Second Game

MBI 72 – Galarse 27, Trajano 16, David 14, Achas 6, Viola 5, Delarama 2, Garcia 2.

Inchcape 60 – Castro 19, Miranda 14, Marchadesch 9, DLGuerrero 7, Buenabajo 5, Del Rosario 5.

Scoring by quarters: 13-17, 34-24, 49-42, 72-60.

Make-up Game

Sherwin Williams 59 – Tabora 21, Vistal 15, Tobias 14, Garon 5, Dayrit 2, Mallari 2.

NBM 56 – Metran 14, Je. Mina 13, Jr. Mina 8, Ortiz 7, Benavente 4, Tengco 3, Montes 2, Johannes 3, Catalla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-6, 29-18, 44-38, 59-56.

Jones, Braves sweep Mets in doubleheader

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rodgers throws 3 TDs, Packers outlast Saints

Page 26

CNMI sluggers beat odds in Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of newly crowed 2011 Pacific Games champion CNMI Baseball Team pose for a group photo in New Caledonia.

The CNMI Baseball Team was the last squad to make it to the playoffs in the 2011 Pacific Games, but ended up in first place to win the gold medal in New Caledonia.

"The CNMI had the hard road to success (they had to win three games in two days), but with very good hitting, excellent fielding, and an outstanding pitching performance by Josh Jones they won the gold. Congratulations to Tony Rogolifoi and Rose Igitol, all your work and efforts have paid dividends for the CNMI," a statement from the Baseball Confederation of Oceania website read.

The Commonwealth sluggers struggled when the baseball competition started and scratched out a hard-earned 1-0 win over erstwhile defending champion Palau. Then the CNMI bets faced New Caledonia and after the visitors controlled majority of the match, the host team went on to steal the win in the last inning, 3-2.

Rogolifoi's wards suffered back-to-back losses after bowing to archrival Guam, 5-6, and the defeat put the CNMI in danger of not making it to the Top 4, as Fiji was lurking around, hoping for another mistake from the Commonwealth bets.

The CNMI snapped the skid with a 9-4 win over American Samoa and foiled Fiji's bid to advance to the Final Four with a tough 2-1 victory.

In a must-win match over Fiji, Jerome Delos Santos and Joshua Jones teamed-up in the game-winning play at the bottom of the eighth inning. Jones singled to center field, advanced to second on a bunt, and made it home for the victory off Jerome Delos Santos single to left field.

After catching the last trip to the playoffs, Jones and company had only a day's rest to prepare for the next round. Guam and Palau, which finished the elimination round tied on top with similar 4-1 records, started the playoffs with the former winning, 4-0, to gain the first finals berth. In Day 2 of the playoffs, CNMI had to play not one, but two matches with the first match set for 9am and the second at 1pm.

The Commonwealth sluggers went on to eliminate New Caledonia, 11-5, and then dethroned Palau, 8-0, to book the second and last finals berth. In less than 24 hours, the CNMI bets returned to the field last Thursday and faced a well-rested Guam team in the gold medal match.

Slow start, strong finish

Vince Cepeda started for the CNMI in the finals and his shaky pitching allowed Guam to seize a 2-0 lead after two innings.

At the top of the third, the Commonwealth sluggers scored four runs. Keoni Lizama scored the first run off Mike Iguel's line drive. Mike and brother Jesus, and Delos Santos also made it home off Guam's errors to grab the lead, 4-2. Guam moved within one, 3-4, after scoring on a run at the bottom of the third.

It was the closest Guam could get after posting an early lead though, as Jones saved his best

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VisMinda/Satbahi edges Bayani/Mobil

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

VisMinda/Satbahi snapped its two-game losing skid, following a thrilling 81-78 victory over Bayani/Mobil in the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Manolo Manalo and Glenn Aquino hit clutch baskets in the closing seconds of the seesaw battle to help VisMinda regain its form and take its fourth win in six games. Mobil fell to a 3-2 record, absorbing its second straight loss.

Manalo finished with only six points, but made four of them in the crucial stage of the match. His putback off two VisMinda misses allowed Satbahi to grab the driver seat, 77-76, with 1:48 left on the clock.

Mobil lost the lead it had since the eighth minute mark of the third quarter when Marlon Sison picked Jun Estolas' pocket near midcourt. Sison went on

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

VisMinda/Satbahi's Rolly Paraiso, right, double clutches to get off a shot against Bayani/Mobil's Gyles Ruluked during their game in the UFO Bud Cup caging on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

VisMinda/PIAHI wins in masters, too

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

VisMinda/PIAHI forced a three-way tie for the lead in the UFO Inter-Organization Masters Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 after beating MDX/Armatech, 92-85, on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

VisMinda improved to a 3-1 record, the same slate MDX and Cabalen/Wings Travel hold.

Five of the nine VisMinda players scored in double figures for the team's balance offense and the PIAHI-backed squad took control of the match in the second period en route to its third straight win.

Ray Lizama led VisMinda

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Sherwin Williams' Dado Vistal pump-fakes during their Blue Haus caging make-up game against NBM Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Cell Pro upsets Fresco, 79-71

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Cell Pro eliminated previously undefeated Fresco with an 83-71 upset victory in the Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League playoffs Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Rocycl Ritual and Joshua Norita tallied six points apiece in the first quarter to give Cell Pro an early 21-16 advantage.

Teammate Leo Itaas then took over in the second quarter as his 17 points accounted for all but two of the team's baskets in the entire period, which allowed Cell Pro to extend its lead to eight, 42-34, at the half.

Norita and Ritual then each delivered six more points as Cell Pro pulled away, 64-54, heading into the payoff period.

Ritual added another 10 big markers in the final period that impeded Fresco's hopes for a

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